

The
Inyo
and
Mono **NEWS-
LETTER**

March
75
CENTS

DEPARTMENT OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
WATER AND POWER

FLAT
RATE
ONLY
SUPPORT THE
METER STRIKE

MONO AIRPORT



P 6

*The Forest Service wants
the issue settled*

**INYO WATER USERS
STRIKE P 25**

DWP firebombed

**EXCLUSIVE
PHOTOS P 22**

No special occasion required..

Why wait for a holiday?
Thoughtfulness is anytime, and
you can make anytime a
special occasion.

A gift basket of fine wine, fancy
cheeses and gourmet delicacies (selection
size and quantity to your tastes) can
say a lot: "Thanks for the favor";
"Just thinking of you"; "Congratulations."

Come in to the Wine Barrel and make
your choices. You can count on quality,
and you will be happily surprised at
just how inexpensive it can be to
say hello to a friend. No special
occasion required...



Exquisite California &
Imported Wines

You can put them
together yourself at

Manor Market

Bishop's finest foods and spirits • Imports • 3100 West Line Street

THE
WINE
BARREL
DELI

COVER:
*A few days before the bombing,
 a protester plastered a bumper
 sticker supporting the
 water strike on DWP's front door.*

Photo: Benett Kessler



**A News Alternative
 Eastern Sierra News Service**

The Inyo and Mono News-Letter,
 formerly The Inyo County News-Letter,
 is a publication of
 Eastern Sierra News Service, and
 it is published at offices located
 at 536 North Edwards Street in
 Independence, California.

Telephones: (714) 878-2381 and 878-2582
 Mono County: 934-2393

Inyo County staff:
 John Heston, editor
 Benett Kessler
 Patricia Duncan

Mono County:
 Wally Charleston

Contributing photo
 and editorial staff:
 Mike Moroch, Bishop
 David Smith, Los Angeles
 James R. Smith, New York, Independence
 Susan Sorrells, Death Valley area

All correspondence, including
 readers' letters to the
 Forum Page, should be
 mailed to PO Box 531 or 275
 Independence, Cal. 93526

Eastern Sierra News Service is
 owned and operated by John Heston,
 Benett Kessler and Patricia
 Duncan. In both Inyo and
 Mono Counties,
 ESNS represents the following
 news organizations:
 ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News
 The Associated Press
 Radio KIOQ-FM 100
 and other media outlets.

in this issue:

FORUM

4

Readers' letters (mostly about
 "Wally"); and N-L's photo blunder.

NEWS BRIEFS

6

Update on Mammoth's Airport;
 The strike at Schat's Bakery; and
 Ballard's \$5000 dinner for eight.

SHOSHONE MATRIARCH

16

Bernice Sorrells dies of cancer;
 she owned the whole town.

WOODY AND CABOOSE

20

Woody retires as the computers take
 over at the old Lone Pine Station.

A BOMB FOR DWP

22

A Molotov Cocktail fails to incinerate
 the office at Independence. Exclusive
 pictures and a customer strike update.

WALLY'S VIEW

26

Wally talks about the Mammoth Chamber
 of Commerce.

INYO-MONO'S VIETNAM VETS

30

There are 900 of them in the Eastern
 Sierra, and they bear many wounds.

NOTES FROM B.K.

43

B.K. covers a "stick" performance;
 and she says the DWP bombing was not
 "an isolated incident".

COMPLETE ART,
 PHOTO, DESIGN
 & COPY SERVICE

EASTERN
 SIERRA
 PRINTING



Patricia Duncan

YOUR FUTURE

IF THE PEOPLE OF
INYO AND MONO

DON'T
GET A
HANDLE
ON THEIR FUTURE,
***THIS GUY
WILL!***



He lives in a palace; we have a housing shortage. He has a fleet of Rolls-Royces and Caddies; many of us drive "economy cars." He has made billions (mostly off of us)-and how did your tax-devoured paycheck look last month? Worse still, he actually holds the control over the very future of the Eastern Sierra, although a lot of people are ignorant of that fact - or refuse to accept it. He has that power because he controls the price and the availability of oil and therefore gasoline. Ours is almost entirely a tourist-based economy. When the gas runs out, is rationed, or becomes too expensive, people from the southland will look for other vacation spots closer to home. (Surveys already show that, overall, business is down by 20-25% in the two counties due directly to gasoline costs - and we don't even have a "crisis"! It's a certainty that the Eastern Sierra is going to have to become independent; it will have to promote and encourage non-polluting industry and job-creating production. We now have a choice, but we have to work fast: We can allow the "no-Growth" people - and this guy - to control our economy - or we can start now to do it ourselves. Write to your officials, call them. Your job, your future, is at stake.

**Grow
with us.**

CAL-TRON Corp.

BISHOP 873-8491

**YOUR ONLY LOCALLY-
OWNED OFFICE IN
SOUTHERN INYO...
SERVING SOUTHERN INYO**

IN THE ALABAMAS,
A BEST BUY :

Under construction on three acres in the
Alabama Hills...Buy now and contractor
will finish to your specifications.

LARGE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY. Located on
Main Street in Lone Pine. Please call
for details.

Call 876-4121

DOROTHY BONNEFIN, owner - broker



Pat Roberts, Lynne Kaunert,
associates

We're Here For You.

310 so. main street, suite 108

lone pine, california 93545

876-4121



**LA-Z-BOY
SALE**

RECLINA-
ROCKER

*Put your feet
up while our
prices go
down!*

Now, for a limited time, you can buy that
comfortable chair you've always dreamed
of at a substantial **SAVINGS!!!**



*Fendon Furniture &
Upholstery Company*

175
E.
PINE
Ph. 873-4698
BISHOP

Member Bishop & Mammoth Chamber of Commerce

ADULT MUSIC

INFORMATION

LOCAL NEWS
8 am, noon, 5pm

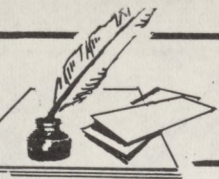
MUTUAL

**NETWORK
NEWS
EVERY HOUR**

Hear it on

KNYO AM
Radio 600

FORUM your view



The News-Letter welcomes readers' letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and concisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to PO Box 531, Independence, California 93526.

John Heston, editor

"GOODNESS AND TRUTH" - AND "WALLY'S VIEW"

Dear Editor -

I want to thank you for "Wally's View." I am so appreciative of your standards. I hated to see the Muckraker go under, but thank goodness and truth, there are people like you.

Patricia A. Gilbert
Mammoth Lakes

(Editor's note: The Muckraker did not specifically "go under"; it was, in fact, at the peak of its popularity and was enjoying its greatest support when publisher Wally Charleston decided to join the News-Letter staff, making possible News-Letter's expansion into Mono County. The editor hopes to live up to reader Gilbert's standards.)

IN A WORD, NO-MO MONO

Dear Benett -

I thought of something you may want to include in your News-Letter. It might help the cause of environmentalists' causes regarding Mono Lake: "DON'T CHANGE MONO LAKE TO NO-MO LAKE"

I thought of it the other day and hadn't heard it before. It just might be enough of a slogan to help the lake situation.

R.A. Karras
Bishop

(Editor's note: If indeed the Mono issue could be decided with slogans yours would be included with the heavy artillery. Alas, such is not the case, but the Mono people may pick up on it anyway. Thanks for writing - B.K.)

WITH A LITTLE HELP, THEY BOUGHT THE TOWN

Dear Ms. Kessler -

Thank you for the mention in "Notes from B.K."

The news from here is that Amargosa Opera House, Inc. has bought Death Valley Junction. Escrow closed on Jan. 31.

A listing under the National Register of Historic Places has been applied for, is presently

being considered and registration is expected in March. With Death Valley Junction recognized as a national historic district we will begin restoration of the buildings and create a desert campus and study center for arts and natural sciences. The firm of Appleton/Phelps Architects, Inc. (L.A.) has been engaged to help us with budgeting the project and ordering priorities and restoration.

Tom Williams
Death Valley
Junction

A POEM

*It is true
that I love you,
But you are never
here with me.*

*So I do hope
that sleep
Heals my fatigue
and selfish longings.*

- Ingmar Stegis
Keough's
Bishop

...AND MORE ABOUT WALLY

Dear Wally -

Glad your field of endeavor has joined with Heston. He's done a good job in Inyo County and has a pretty good following.

I got a good chuckle about the comparison of Carter divesting himself of the peanut business, to relatives, when he took over the presidency. The big difference between Carter and Hanson is the government did not buy the peanut business as Mono County bought - or is attempting to buy - the airport (Page 8 of your January News-Letter).

It's common knowledge that Mr. Schiller, as mentioned by Lawyer Willis Smith, came into the picture about a year after the fact. Misleading information must be released by Hanson's attorney, or he wouldn't be doing his job.

I don't think the attorney general's office would have recommended the indictment if he didn't have pretty good information coupled with facts, not here-say.

Keep up the good work. Now is the time to bear down on the problem to push it over the top.

W.W. "Bill" Hastings
Mammoth-June Lake
Airport, Mammoth Lakes

(Editor's note: The editor thanks reader Hastings for his support, but also reminds him that the grand jury did not specifically "indict" Supervisor Hanson. News-Letter intends to continue its interest and enquiry into the Mono County issues, and readers will find an updated report in this edition.)

Dear Wally -

"The Muckraker is dead - Long live the Muckraker!"

My letter is regard to the item in your News-Letter of January, re: The Arlberg and Nick Pavlovich.

While it may be true that Mr. Pavlovich did violate the county building statutes and that the boards of supervisors and our DA have a right to halt and perhaps cause a total rebuilding, I wonder if the D.A. and the board have even considered such action as hurting the employees of the Arlberg?

If there are problems with building permits (or Nick's membership on the water board), then let the D.A. get with Nick and get them over with, and stop the unnecessary hardships on the employees.

With our board of supes and our D.A. under so much fire recently, it would seem to me that this issue is so minute that it wouldn't take much time and/or effort to clear it up so that the employees could get on with making an honest living.

What about it Wally?

Norman Ross
Mammoth Lakes

FORUM cont.

NEWS-LETTER'S TRAILER PARK PHOTO MIXUP

In a telephone call to the News-Letter last week, it came to light that "a number" of tenants at a Bishop mobile home park owned by Bob George were afraid they were being suddenly evicted. George said that a few of these had already begun looking for new quarters.

The cause of their sudden concern? - A photograph of George's trailer park published in the January edition of the News-Letter, along with a story about an entirely different trailer park, this one owned by Richard and Kirk Wagner who were reported as raising rents and evicting tenants in order to make room for another development they planned for the present trailer area.

Acting on information provided the News-Letter in getting the eviction story, News-Letter Editor John Heston photographed George's, not Wagner's, mobile home park, and the incorrectly identified photo accompanied a story in the News-Letter "News Briefs" columns. George told News-Letter that "There is a trailer park located immediately behind ours." The telephone directory lists George's address as 333 Sierra St., and Kirk Wagner's at 395 Sierra.

George said that some of his tenants, alarmed by the photo, had already started looking for "another place to live," and that some of them thought perhaps that George had sold his

own trailer park to Wagner. George said that the Wagner park cannot be seen in the photograph.

News-Letter found itself plainly in error. George said he was contacting his attorney and that he was not seeking a retraction or correction.

However, in a rather belated effort at accuracy - and to reassure George's tenants - News-Letter wants to call attention to the error of photography, and to express its regrets and its apologies to George and to his tenants who suffered undue concern.

RUSSIAN GOLD, "TIME" AND "READER'S DIGEST"

Dear "BK"

Although I have long enjoyed your literary style, I was somewhat startled at your comment re: Russian gold production. To check my recollection, I examined my Readers' Digest Year Book (1977) and the table is reproduced on the reverse. Of course, it is not a 1980 table and you may wish to examine more recent and reliable data. I am somewhat dubious, however, that the Soviets could somehow vault into second place in 2 years. Incidentally, it is my recollection that the Soviets were the world's leading producers of platinum about 25 years ago.

Now - if you would be so interested, look at other production statistics in the table. Note how the Soviets are now right in there with us in many real industrial basics such as petroleum, coal, steel, elec-

tricity - to name only a few. This is a graphic illustration of what our socialistic, anti-freedom government has "achieved" in this great country of ours in less than 50 years.

Unless we wise up pronto, we'll dang well be "tail-enders."

Peter Geshell
Retired Mining
Engineer
Lone Pine

(editor's note: Reader Geshell accompanies his letter with a clipping from a Reader's Digest table of statistics which excludes entirely USSR gold production and which lists South Africa as largest producer, followed by Canada, then the United States. News-Letter's B.K. had read that Russia is a "second largest" producer from a recent article in Time Magazine. As for Reader Geshell's other comments, News-Letter finds itself generally in agreement.)

SPEAK YOUR PIECE.....

The News-Letter welcomes letters from readers - especially those who hold a view at variance with News-Letter's own. News-Letter wants its Forum Page to be a marketplace of competing ideas. So speak your piece; it will be given a hearing here....But be brief and to the point.

- The editor

GEORGE'S, NOT WAGNER'S, PARK



"...published along with a story about an entirely different trailer park..."

News Briefs

SUMMARIZING THE INYO-MONO NEWS

MANY OF THE GRAND JURY'S CHARGES DISMISSED; MAMMOTH'S AIRPORT ISSUE STILL UP IN THE AIR; THE EASTERN SIERRA WEATHERS THE WEATHER; AND A STRIKE AT SCHAT'S

CUTTING QUICKLY AND SURELY through a complexity of grand jury accusations made against two Mono County officials, a Fresno judge centered on what he apparently considered the relevant question in the Mammoth Airport issue: Was Supervisor Gene Hanson in conflict of interest when, as a stockholder in the airport, he counseled sale of the airport to the county?

Late in the month, Judge Blaine Petit acted swiftly to dismiss all of the jury's accusations against long-time District Attorney Ed Denton. Denton had been accused of having knowledge of Hanson's airport interests and, as the county's counsel, should have advised the county administration about a possible conflict of interest. The grand jury had accused him of no less than dereliction of duty. Under the judge's ruling Denton emerges from the conflict free and clear, completely exonerated from wrong-doing. Some of his accusers had privately admitted that any case against him had been pretty thin to start with.

The judge also dismissed all but three of the dozen accusations against Hanson - but the remaining three amount to what the judge calls "some evidence to substantiate the possible charges of misconduct" on Hanson's part. Talking to a News-Letter reporter, Judge Petit stressed the point that he was not determining whether the charges were true, but only if the evidence was sufficient to justify charges against Hanson.

The remaining charges were

BULLETINS:

Teamster interest in the Eastern Sierra

Following a trip to Mammoth Mountain, Teamster's Union Business Agent Joe Jahard of Lancaster said his union will not "push" mountain employees to join his union, that the union will wait for the workers to approach the union - but that the teamsters are in fact hoping to organize the ski resort. Jahard said his union has statistics indicating that Mammoth has an extremely high cost of living index, and "very low wages." He called his visit "exploratory."

Help for DWP water cutoff victims

Lone Pine's multi-millionaire-philanthropist Louis Statham said his private water source, a well, will be made available for any person whose water service is cut off due to refusal to pay metered rates. A committee has plans to secure a tank truck for water deliveries.

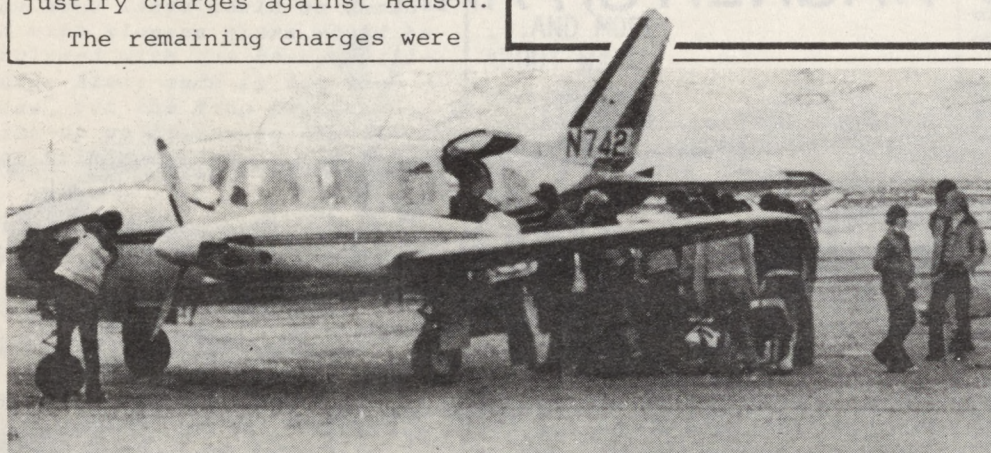
far from negligible: Three paragraphs of the grand jury's report alleged that (1) When Mono County entered into the purchase of the airport and its equipment, Hanson was at the time personally liable on a debt incurred on the equipment. "The equipment" in question amounted to a four-wheel-drive pickup then being used as a snowplow; (2) Hanson was at the time in question a stockholder in Mammoth Sky Lodge Corporation which owned the airport, and that he attended Sky Lodge director meetings offering advice on selling the airport to the county, and that he had failed to disclose properly his interest in Sky Lodge.

Judge Petit confirmed that should a jury find the charges to be true that such a decision would result in Hanson's loss of office as a Mono supervisor. Next step in the case will be a preliminary hearing for Hanson, which Petit set for March 17 at Bridgeport. Despite a heavy docket at Fresno, Petit himself expects to conduct the Bridgeport hearing. He pointed out that a judicial council may have to find a judge to fill his place at Fresno during the Hanson hearings.

MEANWHILE, THE MONO SUPERVISORS spent much of the month in a quandary wondering what to do about the airport deal. At mid-month they announced unexpectedly that they would pull out of the purchase entirely. But as the month drew to a close they had come full circle on that decision and once again were making plans to go through with the purchase. In recent days

AIRPORT UPDATE: This is a solution?

By month's end, the Forest Service had decided to leave the airport open but unattended. The Forest Service assumes no liability, offers no lights, no fuel or snow removal or other services. Meanwhile, the small airline Wings West has moved operations to Bishop offering a bus service for Mammoth-bound passengers.



Ski tourists load at Mammoth airport.

The key facility served more than 60,000 of these last year.

Photo: Wally Charleston

they went into closed executive session with the county's legal counsel to determine once again where the county stands.

Meanwhile, at month's end, it appeared very likely that the airport would close down entirely - barring a rumored businessman's injunction to prevent it. Airport employees had been given notice to the effect that February 29 would be their last day at work. The county's prematurely installed furniture and property was tagged or moved out. The supervisors bleakly faced the fact that the decision was up to them - finally - as to whether the airport would actually close.

Hanson was absent from the closed meeting. Mono County Counsel Louis Selby said that the board unanimously agreed that the Forest Service, actual owner of the property, "be advised that the board...continues to express its intentions to acquire...the airport."

But it had become possible, suddenly, that the airport deal might not be as easy as previously thought: Selby said it was his understanding that Mammoth Sky Lodge Corporation had attempted to kick up the original purchase price by a whopping \$165,000 - more than doubling the original price of \$100,000 already deposited in an escrow account. Selby said the county "balked" at the new figure. But they would go so far as to pay some \$5000 additional, for attorney's fees.

Forest Service District Ranger Dick Adams was queried about the airport negotiations. He verified that Flave George, president of Sky Lodge, had asked for more but that "it wasn't enough to mention."

The reported price hike may have turned up because of some increasing indebtedness of the corporation itself. Adams said Sky Lodge owes the Forest Service back rents amounting to \$25,000, an amount accumulated between 1976 and 1978. Why had it not been paid? Adams said that Sky Lodge is already in debt "some \$100,000 to various creditors." He also said that there is "some doubt" as to whether Mono County can now legally purchase the airport.

In recent weeks, George had called a meeting at his Palos Verdes home, and among those present were Sky Lodge board members, Dana Johnson, Bill Condor, Dave McCoy. Adams was there. Of the meeting Adams would only say that it "served

to clear the air on a lot of matters."

The county's special counsel, Charles Barrett said that as negotiations continue, the deal is "basically at an impasse," and that the county still intended to move forward with the closure.

Barrett would carry his story just so far, explaining that he could not, or would not comment on other developments "because they are involved with ongoing negotiations that could be involved in possible future litigation."

Adams also talked with News-Letter's Mono representative, Wally Charleston. In his talk with Charleston he was outspoken: Adams said essentially that a solution for the airport largely rests with Flave George...or with Sky Lodge Corporation. Adams told Charleston: "all I can say is that we're going to do everything we can to keep it open. But also, on the other hand, I'm not going to let anybody blackmail me." He said the only way he would renew George's Forest Service permit is if he "re-does all the wrong." When asked what was wrong, Adams said "to begin with, he owes us \$25,000 in back rent."

Adams also said, "I've got a half a dozen people interested in taking over the operation of the airport. But nobody can take over the operation of the airport as long as Flave holds title to most of the improvements."

When asked when those improvements might become the Forest Service's, Adams said, "I have to give him the opportunity to right his wrongs, so to speak. If he doesn't do that we have some other things that are available to us; To put it back into federal ownership and then we can put it back into county ownership."

Adams said that it would be a problem to close down the airport temporarily then to open it again because there are "sub-standard" situations there.

Adams said about 60,000 people came to Mammoth by way of the airport last year.

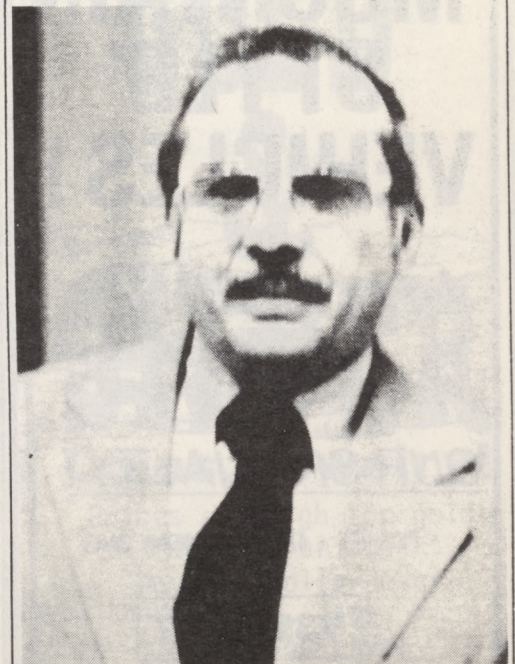
And what are the options open to the Forest Service in dealing with George? Adams is reported to have been studying those options: He can, for instance, terminate George's airport use permit, placing the facility back into the government's control. If George has no permit, then the Forest Service can place him under its

tresspass regulations. However, such action is unlikely if George is willing to "re-do all the wrong" claimed by the Forest Service official.

Adams was bemoaning the fact that the airport deal hadn't gone through in the first place. For the delay in that, Adams told a News-Letter reporter at Independence that the purchase would have gone through if it hadn't been for Wally Charleston and his previous publication, the "Mono Muckraker" which had played a large part in exposure of the alleged conflict-of-interest charges lodged against Hanson. Charleston had in fact been looking into the airport deal for several months and had been duly reporting the situation until he closed down the Muckraker to join the News-Letter staff.

Out of the Kern Kitchen, into an Inyo "hot spot"

TOLD FRANKLY THAT ANY JOB as Inyo's planning director might put him in a "political hot spot," Planning Director appointee Ted Hilton took it all in stride. After all, as he pointed out to the supervisors that were hiring him, things hadn't been any bed of roses over in Kern County either. That's where he and his staff of 50 have been battling not



Planning Director Hilton
here "for personal reasons"

only the politics of Bakersfield and Kern County, but also a lawsuit by the Sierra Club. "I've had pressures where I am

Legal services



**JAMES MAX
STEWART**

Attorney at Law

Mono and Inyo
Counties

(714) 934-3419

P.O. Box 1098
Mammoth Lakes Calif. 93546

'MOUNTAIN STYLE' VEHICLES!



OUR SPECIALTY!

• PICK-UPS • 4X4's • ECONOMY CARS

935-4382

**McGee Creek
Motors**

CROWLEY LAKE DR AT McGEE LAKE CROWLEY LAKE

now," he told the supervisors, and then, paraphrasing a former US president, he added: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Getting out of the kitchen is exactly what Hilton, 48, is doing. He had been quietly talking to the Inyo board and his plans to come here as planning director were largely unknown to the supervisors in Kern - until a call by a reporter inadvertently tipped them off. What exactly is the "heat" in the Kern kitchen? Hilton said his reasons for wanting to come to Inyo are several. "I want to come up here for personal reasons. I like to fish and hunt and to be outdoors. My wife has developed an allergy in the Bakersfield area due to air pollution." Also, as Hilton explained it, his job in Kern has been "purely administrative," and that he would prefer to "get back into planning."

Some Kern officials were also giving out to any who would listen their own version of Hilton's problems in Kern. The Kern issues came to light when an anonymous letter writer forwarded to the News-Letter a clipping from a Bakersfield newspaper. The newspaper related that sometime in January "two Kern supervisors publicly asked Hilton to resign because of delays in completing a new general plan. The two supervisors...claimed that a lack of leadership by Hilton caused the delay."

If the Kern supervisors were to be believed, it would appear that Kern County was having precisely the same problems - general plan delays and lack of leadership - that Inyo has endured for years - the same problems in fact that got Hilton's Inyo predecessor fired.

Were the local supervisors concerned that their selection of a planning director may be bringing about a continuation of an old problem? They were made aware in news items and, probably, in private conversations, that the Kern plan was to have been completed last June and is now held up at least until next December. They also were aware that the Kern county administrator had indicated that Hilton's job there depended on "how he puts this (the Kern GP) together."

Apparently, the Inyo administration was unconcerned about any questions raised concerning Hilton's past performance. And they could refer to the words

of the Kern County supervisors' chairman, John Mitchell: "He is a good man. I would say that Hilton could be a planning director in a county your size." Mitchell also explained some of Hilton's problems at Bakersfield: The Bakersfield planning department had lured away some of Hilton's best technicians.

In any case, the new Inyo planning director will begin his task - and the lagging Inyo general plan update - sometime in mid-March. Taking on Inyo County and what Inyo Supervisor Richard McDonald called a "political hot spot," will cost him a \$6000 cut in salary; Here he will be making about \$28,000 per year; Kern County paid \$34,000.

A new look for the old McGee Creek Inn

YEARS AGO, before they went broke as leaders in the Owens Valley water fight with Los Angeles, Bishop's Watterson brothers, the bankers, had their eye on developing a community on McGee Creek, an area overlooking what is now Crowley Lake. After the downfall of the Wattersons the idea lingered on, but with little progress. Finally, around 1929, some of the Arcularius Ranch people promoted the idea and the then-plush hostelry, McGee Creek Inn, was built. Over the years it became a popular tourist spot. During the time the Mammoth ski facility was under construction it became a semi-permanent home for the McCoy people. Its fortunes waned, however, as the new freeway was completed, leaving the old highway virtually deserted. Its last owner was Alice Stark. Now, the McGee Creek Inn shows some promise of a rebirth; some travellers, irked by crowded tourist resorts, are looking for places off the beaten path. Its just that sort of establishment - a first class one, it is claimed - that the new owner Dan Cassells has in mind. Cassells, a builder who came to the area from Idaho, says his purchase of McGee Creek Inn was still in escrow in February, that he was leasing the place from Stark, and moving right ahead with remodeling plans. "I'll bring it up to code, and up to Mammoth standards," he says. Included in Cassell's plans will be renovation of the inn, a bar and a restaurant. He offered no specific date for McGee Creek Inn's reopening.

News Briefs continued P 10

AT INDEPENDENCE
YOU'LL GET MORE
THAN JUST A GOOD
GASOLINE AT
THIS SIGN:



YOU'LL GET
**REAL
SERVICE**

- TUNE-UPS
- BRAKES
- TRANSMISSIONS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- COMPLETE OVERHAUL

DUNCAN'S
—878-2112—**Shell**
HWY. 395 at INDEPENDENCE

Attention!

RESIDENTS OF LONE PINE, INDEPENDENCE,
BIG PINE AND LAWS

THOSE METERED RATE WATER BILLS
MAY SEEM SMALL NOW.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

REMEMBER THOSE SPRING, SUMMER AND
FALL 'HYPOTHETICAL' METERED WATER BILLS.

CONTRARY TO THE CLAIMS OF THE LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER, WE DO NOT
ADVOCATE WASTING WATER.

WE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE SENSIBLE USE
OF WATER.

BUT WE MUST SAVE OUR PROPERTIES AND VALLEY.

JOIN THE METERED PAYERS' STRIKE.

PAY ONLY THE FLAT RATE FOR YOUR WATER.

SUPPORT THE METER STRIKE

**CONCERNED
CITIZENS OF
WENS
VALLEY**

Big Pine
938-2208 P.O. Box 304

Independence
P. O. Box 487

Lone Pine
876-5660 P. O. Box 217

Bishop
873-5202

*They're harpooning your
friends. Donate now.*



The Whale Protection Fund

CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

1925 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

GOLD & SILVER

Coins, Jewelry!

Prices are high for gold
and silver. We
pay top-dollar over
the counter, cash, for
what you have!

DON LEAKE CO.

Custom-made wedding rings
and jewelry

103 N. MAIN
BISHOP

873-6980

News Briefs Continued

Groundwater ordinance:
Getting the facts

IN HIS EFFORTS to complete a feasibility study for an Inyo County groundwater pumping ordinance, San Francisco environmental policy Consultant Pat Weinstein was ranging up and down the valley with an eye on DWP's groundwater pumps - and on the local political climate. He told reporters he was getting "varying degrees of support" among Inyo's supervisors. "But I haven't found any against it." The idea for a county ordinance - one aimed at controlling DWP's drain-off of Inyo's water resources - grew in popularity during the summer confrontations with DWP. Weinstein said late in the month that his report is nearly completed and that he will return here "soon". Next step toward passage of an ordinance - that no doubt will be vigorously

contested by DWP - will be a call for public hearings on the issue.

Lapplander repairs: Lodge
may re-open in mid-March

IT MAY BE THAT A FIRE that recently damaged Mammoth's popular Lapplander Lodge began when a bus driver (busy shepherding 80 Glendale teenagers) left some clothing too close to a room furnace. That at least was one of the causes suggested last week by Lapplander Manager Pat Hammond. Repairs, somewhat hindered by the recent storms, continue underway, and Hammond hopes to re-open some of the damaged parts of the lodge by mid-March. She and her husband, who manage the facility for a southland owner, were out of town when the fire broke out early in February causing the 80 youngsters to be evacuated. All escaped unhurt, but there was extensive damage and the lodge was closed.

Maybe a lead balloon in
Inyo's VSO contradictions

IN SPITE OF OFFICIAL DENIALS late in February, Inyo's veteran's service officer Bill

Hastings insisted that Inyo County was trying to close down the office which in recent years has been the center of more than a little controversy. But County Administrator John K. Smith, concerned perhaps that such reports might once again stir up scores of county veterans' groups, told reporters that the idea is "ridiculous." Questioned about how the report got started, Smith explained that "I've been stopping in and talking to them (VSO personnel) about Proposition 9 - about possible cutbacks in state financing. The VSO is a burden to the taxpayers in that it lets the feds off the hook - That's who we fought the war for, the federal government. But that's as far as I went with the issue."

"I was giving Hastings some good advice...I would go on a campaign to get the state and the feds to pick up some of the costs. I don't know how he got the idea I wanted to close the office."

But if Smith was not thinking about closing the vets' office, he was making it clear that the administration saw it as a drain on county funds. Hastings interprets Smith's attitude as a first step to-

SUBSCRIBE NOW AND SAVE
News-Letter subscription
form on Page 39

SKI-AREA-SHUTTLE

- AIRPORT SERVICE
- HOTEL PICK-UP
- TOURS

Fast-trans to and from
anyplace in the area

Ride in safe comfort

KAY'S TAXI

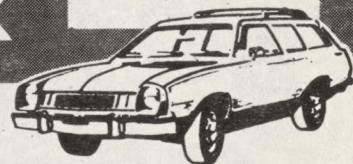
PHONE

934-2393

MAMMOTH
LAKES

RENT -a- CAR

DAY - WEEK
MONTH



- ✓ STATION WAGONS - 9 PASSENGERS
- ✓ BRONCO - PICK UPS
- ✓ GRANADAS - MAZDAS
- ✓ PINTOS & BOB-CATS
- ✓ 4-WHEEL DRIVE

SPECIAL WEEKDAY RATES
"ASK ABOUT OUR SHORT DAY RATE"

PICK-UP & DELIVERY
EASTERN SIERRA AUTO RENTAL
MAMMOTH AIRPORT
CROWLEY LAKE

MOST CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

CALL

935-4471

ward closure. "On a priority list of county offices," he said, "the VSO is at the very bottom. He's really telling us that the office is going to go." Hastings said he doubts that the VSO can get state aid. And he says that the county's veterans - who have shown themselves to be militantly supportive of the office - are becoming alarmed.

Among those concerned is a local American Legion commander, Bill Baucum, who said he thinks the situation is "confused" right now with the county officials statements denying the rumors of closing. To Baucum and to the veterans that make up some 50% of the county's male population the office has proven to be a significant aid; Baucum points out that "as they grow older" they'll need increasing amounts of service and would find increasing difficulty in traveling the 250-odd miles to another office. "Our isolation here makes it all the more important that we keep the office," he said. When asked about possible financial cutbacks in the upcoming budget, Baucum said he "understands" Smith's concerns, and that Smith is "walking a tight-rope...But our position is that there are priorities and ours is high considering the number of people the office serves."

Baucum intimated that the issue over possible closure may in fact have been a "trial balloon" sent up by the administration to find out what reaction talk of closure would get. If indeed it was an administration trial balloon, it began to appear at month's end that it was turning quickly into a lead balloon.

A rough, wet winter? It is nothing like '69

IT WAS A DRENCHING WINTER ALRIGHT, but weather watchers who began talking in nostalgic terms or comparisons of "the winter of '69" were at some pains to compare. In 1969, when roofs caved in and buildings collapsed under the weight of snow, when flood waters took out sections of roadways from Inyo to Tonopah, and when as one local transient recalls "the flood even washed out the pool and the baths up at Fale's Hot Springs". It had rained or snowed some 17-plus inches of moisture, as recorded at the Bishop weather station. The '79-'80 winter has so far only released less than a third of that amount, and at Mammoth some nine feet of snow. A lot to be sure, but still no record.

Compared to the watery problems of California's southland,

the Eastern Sierra has had easy going. A month's-end summary indicates at least one plane crash near Bishop; a relatively light number of traffic mishaps, some temporary flooding on the main highway south of the Inyo community of Olancho; an avalanche at June Lake. As a result of the storms there were a few inconveniences: the usual snow removal problems in Mono; the closedown of a few work-shifts at the Bishop Union Carbide plant; the early closing of some Mono banks, and - even the Weight Watchers club had to postpone a meeting at Mammoth.

For those stuck at home in Inyo the rains also broke off much of their contact with others in a similar plight - the phone service was temporarily disrupted. Said Dewey Weatherford, manager of Bishop's Continental Telephone Company: "With extreme heat and cold, cables get cracked and water gets in. That's our major problem. The air is humid. We need a few days of dry weather. In a cable, a little water affects a lot of people." The cable problems were aggravated by the winter's influx of tourists who by way of long distance phone calls were apparently keeping in touch with their flooded homeland. "Normally," says Weatherford, "we have about three thousand phone customers here, but when the



Downhill mishap

When Mammoth's Mike McGrath went off to Europe with the US Downhill Ski Team several weeks back, he had hopes of making it to the olympic events at Lake Placid. Luck ran against him as he skied in a downhill event at Morzine, France. "I was in the fifth race of the circuit," he ruefully recalled, "when I crashed on the day of the race that was it...I caught an edge and fell into a big roll into the net." Doctors at Tahoe operated to repair knee ligaments, and that eliminated McGrath from skiing activities at least until June. Meanwhile, Mike's at home with his parents at Mammoth.

Photo: John Heston

Stormy mishap

Photos:
John Heston
Benett Kessler

Two days of skiing and a long drive in blinding rain had wearied a young March Air Force Base man. His three passengers said he fell asleep while driving from Mammoth, and he careened off the highway north of Independence. Volunteers were called out in the rainstorm to rescue him.



skiers arrive, there are thirty to fifty thousand more. There had been reports that "90%" of the phones were out, but Weatherford said only about 'six to eight percent' had been out at any one time."

The big question - still unanswered in the minds of many Inyoans - concerned the continued operation of DWP groundwater pumps. L.A. and the southland were virtually afloat with reservoirs dangerously awash at near capacity. Why, wondered the locals, did DWP need more?

AT BISHOP, Roi Ballard's much-publicized \$5000 dinner for eight friends became another casualty of the rains. The French chef that Ballard was flying in from the east called from Las Vegas and, as a first-class chef, turned down any second-class transportation to Bishop. Ballard had offered a limousine since no plane could fly to Vegas from Bishop's storm-enshrouded airport, but the chef said no. He caught another plane out of Vegas during a break in the storm, and returned to Chicago. Ballard said the dinner, which had attracted television editors and newsmen, would have to be postponed. Scores of pre-dinner in-

vitations had gone out. "You can't imagine," moaned the would-be gourmet, "how many phone calls I'm going to have to make here just one day before we were to have the party." But Bishop's Paradise Restaurant offered an emergency solution: Within 18 hours the Paradise staff prepared and served a near-identical dinner - grat-is. Only substitution: pheasant (alas!) instead of Cornish hen.

Bakers go on strike at Schat's Bakery

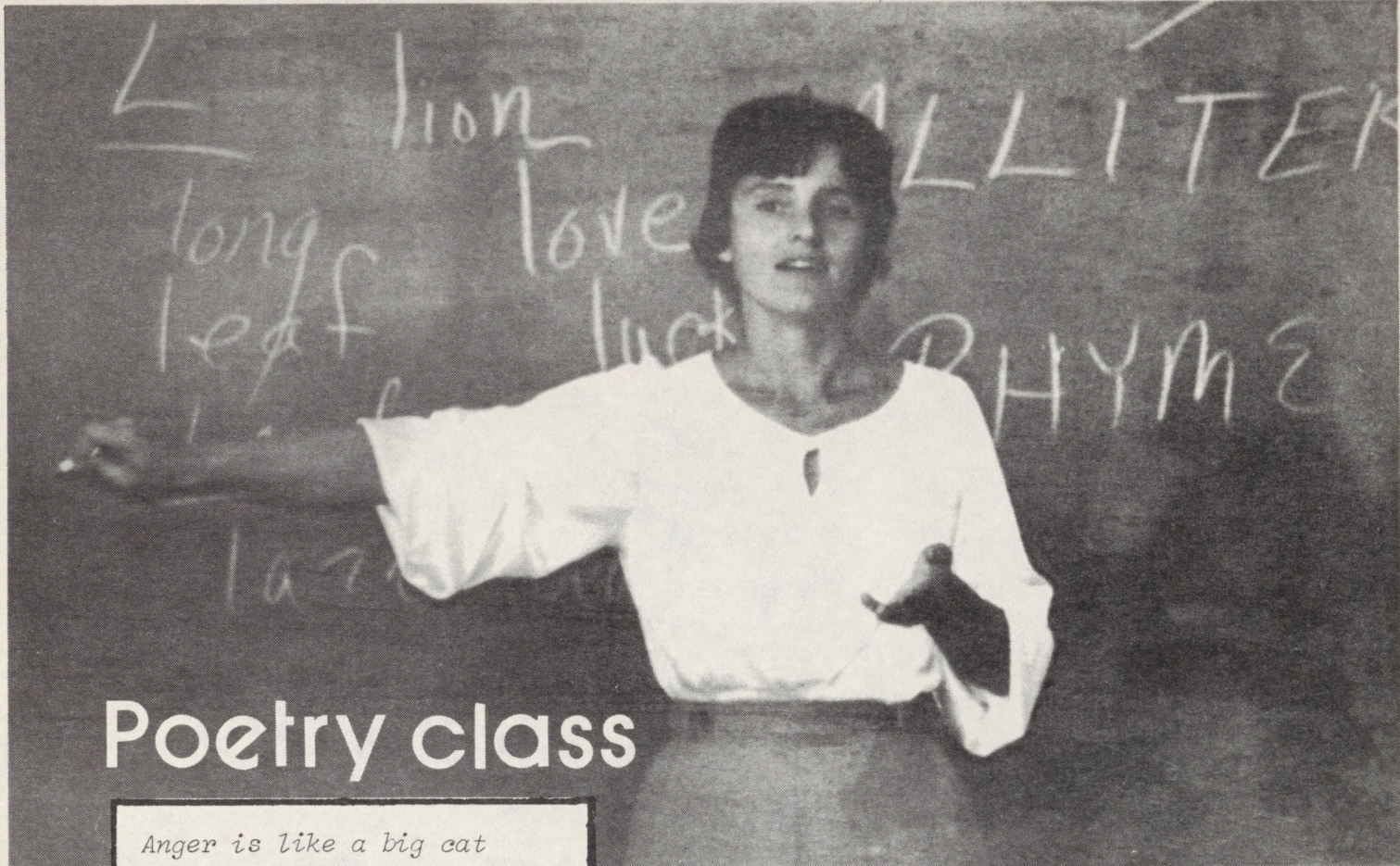
BACK IN 1938, a modest mom-pop bakery operation on Bishop's Main Street patented a recipe and name for what had become a local best-selling loaf of bread - "Shepherd's Bread." Over the years the Schat family managed to parlay Shepherd's into a multi-million-dollar operation that now distributes bakery products into literally hundreds of stores, including most of the major supermarket retail outlets in southern California. Probably, it was Schat's expansion into the big-time that caught the eye of hard-lining union bakeries competing for space on L.A.'s supermarket shelves.

Finally, in February, the Bakers, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers Union felt it could no longer tolerate a high quality line of bakery goods that suddenly had moved competitively into a market of products bearing their union's label. The union was further concerned over the fact that Schat's Bishop bakery also hires undocumented Mexican labor - "wet-backs." The hiring of Mexican aliens has long been a major complaint of southland unions who claim - with some justification - that cheap Mexican labor willing to work for pittance wages destroys the very foundations of union goals.

Late in February, the union moved in, and some 37 of Schat's employees walked out of the Schat's plant on Bishop's Mandich Lane. Since the pickets went up tensions and tempers, and a small degree of name-calling, has been on the increase, especially after Plant Manager Dan Schat quickly replaced the striking workers from a long list of willing-to-work applicants

As tensions rose and word of

Continued page 40



Poetry class

*Anger is like a big cat
who missed his prey.
Anger is like a condor
who was captured for tagging.
Anger is like a Brown
that's just been caught.
Anger is like a plant
that's just been stepped on.
Anger is like a stormy day
so mad at the ground.*

Poet-teacher Eva Poole talks to her class
Cheers from the students

At a time when parents are complaining that their kids can't read, there appears a bright new literacy in at least one county school. Under the direction of a lively poet-teacher students at Big Pine are learning to express themselves through poetry.

*Text and photos
by Bobbie Bradford*

The little-known work of some great poet?

It is in fact the artful product of an Inyo seventh grader named Jeff Davis. Young Davis and other students at Big Pine have recently been learning about poetry - what it is, who writes it, how it is written; and they are writing it. Quite well, it would appear.

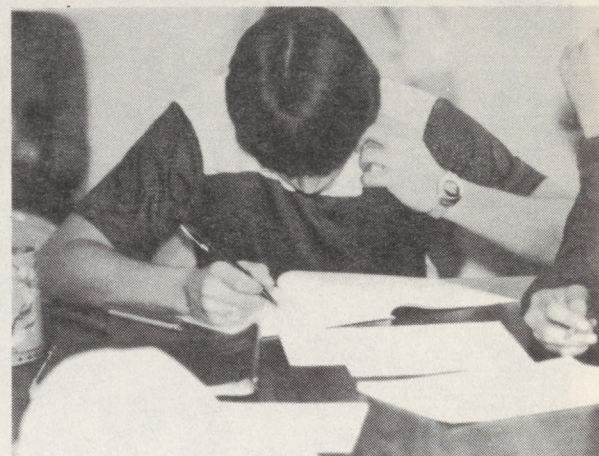
Their studies and their subject matter range far: anger to angels, puppies to flower petals, and beyond. Big Pine students from fifth grade through high school cover these subjects and more in a home-grown poetry book "Clouds I Can Not Touch."

Who has tapped the Youngsters' hidden talents teaching them to reveal their feelings in this new (to them) way? She is Eva Poole, a lively young poet in her own right. Poole is a representative of California Poets in the Schools and in Inyo County she serves as Eastern Sierra co-ordinator of the program. Poole is also editor of an area literary journal, "The Deepest Valley Review."

When Poole came into the schools she was met with a certain wariness; poetry, after all, is rarely the stuff of which rural education is made. But Poole - and other writer-poets of the area (and there is

an increasing number of these) sees the valley and the surrounding mountains in a special poet's way - an endless beauty about which one may lyricize. After her first three class sessions the fifth graders quite literally cheered when she walked into the classroom. Older students, though less demonstrative, responded as eagerly. Most say they enjoy the classes she teaches.

The poetry program was established in 1964 and operates as an affiliate of the poetry Center at San Francisco State University. The program's aim is to bring poetry into the lives of students at a suffi-



POETRY BECOMES... "AN ACCEPTABLE SUSPECT" GIFT OF AN ENIGMATIC

Photos:
Bobbie
Bradford

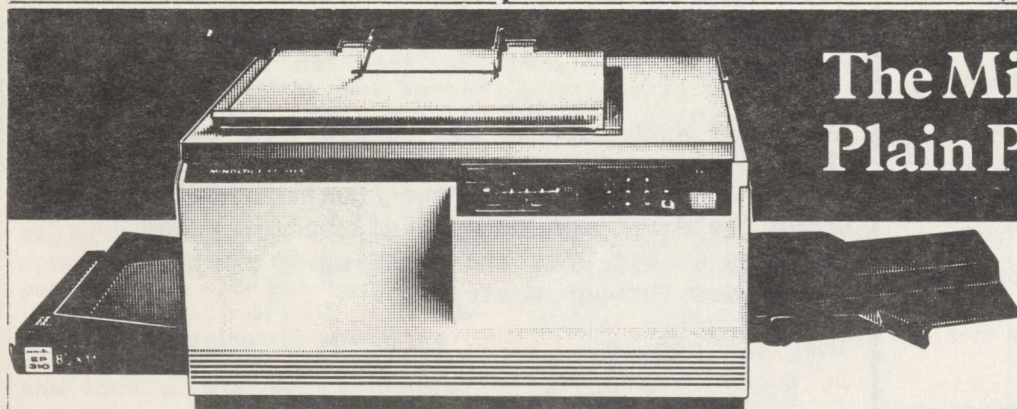
Women's Club of Big Pine, and Lone Pine Parents' Club. Part of the funds provided through backers will go to expand the program, and three more established poets will soon teach at other schools in the county.

If "Clouds I Can Not Touch" is an indicator, Poole and the program have succeeded. Dramatically. Other teachers are inclined to agree. They say Poole's own freshness and aliveness is imparted to the

ciently early age to assure better understanding of it later. It becomes then an understood and acceptable form of expression, not the mysterious (and often suspect) gift of an enigmatic and isolated few.

Poets in the Schools, as a program, has some impressive

backing: California Arts Council; the United States Office of Education, and the National Endowment for the Arts, to name a few. On the local level, the program has also had some generous backing: donations from the Louis Stathams of Lone Pine, the Business and Professional



The Minolta EP310 Plain Paper Copier.

The things that make it a dependable small-office copier also make it a dependable big-office copier.

The Minolta EP 310 has two assets you won't find on the biggest, most expensive plain paper copiers.

It's small. And it's moderately priced.

While one EP 310 is ideal as the only copier in a small office, several of them can be perfect for satellite locations in a large office.

So your people can spend more time at their desks. And less time waiting in line at a distant copy center.

The EP 310 gives you consistently high copy quality from virtually any original, including books. And it copies on virtually any kind of paper, including your letterhead.

And since the EP 310 is often the only copier in a small office, Minolta had to make it dependable. So we gave it an extremely short, straight paper path to make it virtually jamproof. And a self-diagnostic system that tells you the right thing to do if anything ever

goes wrong.

See the EP 310 at your Minolta copier dealer. It's the small copier that's as much at home in a big office as a small one.

See the Minolta EP 310 at

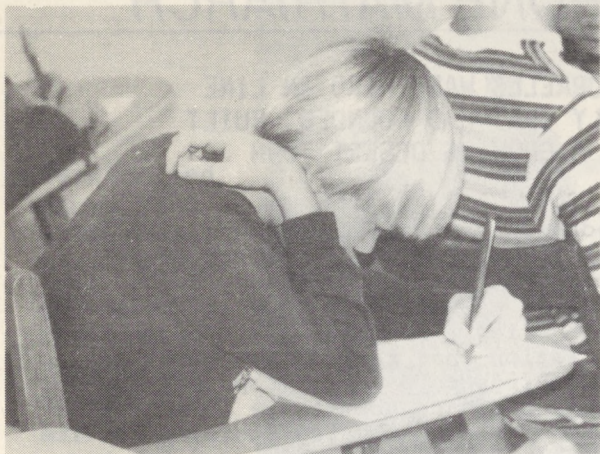
BISHOP TYPEWRITER

OFFICE PRODUCTS DIVISION

TOWN & COUNTRY SHOPPING CENTER

621 W. LINE, BISHOP, CA

(714) 873-5773



Big Pine's
young poets
at work

A
demonstrative
and vital
teacher
captures
youthful
imagination

FORM OF EXPRESSION, NOT THE MYSTERIOUS (AND OFTEN AND ISOLATED FEW."

students; an infectious attitude seen reflected in their work.

As a writer-poet, Poole has conducted workshops and classes in poetry and creative writing for the Cerro Coso College Extension Program at Lone Pine. She lends encouragement and support to all students, many of whom wish only to write for their own enjoyment and expression, and others ambitious to publish. She also teaches a

poetry class at Home Street School at Bishop, and makes herself available to anyone interested.

"We hope," says one Poole student, "that with the expansion of the program more of our students will come to appreciate true freedom of expression through poetry."

Starry-eyed dream in a practical world? Not necessarily, not when a seventh grade student can discover and articu-

late anger, perhaps his own. As Jeff says, "Anger is like a brown that's just been caught." And haven't we all somehow "just been caught"?

(Editor's note: Persons interested in participating in or supporting Ms. Poole's work may contact her through P.O. Box "J", Independence, California 93526)

WE'VE GROWN INTO A...

NEW LOCATION!

125 N. MAIN
BISHOP

All the great names:

Radaraange

• **TAPPAN**

• DACOR • *Toshiba* • *CROSLEY*

• **W** White Westinghouse

• *Amana*

• *Thermador* • *Waste King*

• IN-SINK-ERATOR

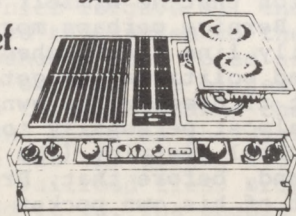
• JENN-AIR

• *KitchenAid*

• *Magic Chef*

VVV
JENN-AIR

AUTHORIZED
SALES & SERVICE



- ◆ MORE SPACE FOR CONVENIENT SHOPPING
- ◆ WIDER RANGE OF STOCK
- ◆ MORE SELECTIONS AND BETTER PRICES THROUGH VOLUME SALES
- ◆ SEE US BEFORE YOU BUY: RANGES, REFRIGERATORS, MICROWAVE OVENS, HEATERS, TELEVISIONS, SEWING MACHINES AND VACUUM CLEANERS

TEL. 873-4184



APPLIANCE

Sales•Service
Repair

CENTER

SHOSHONE MATRIARCH

BERNICE SORRELLS WAS THIRD IN LINE
IN A FAMILY THAT HAD FOUNDED, BUILT
AND OWNED A GROWING DESERT TOWN

The 94-degree springs at Shoshone gush forth 500 gallons a minute into a sunswept desert that is more dusty-white than sandy beige. The winter tourists - snowbirds, they are called by the locals - bring a seasonal increase to the town's population that ranges from about 115 to 250. The snowbirds come for the springs and for the sun. To accomodate them there is a trailer park, a kind of sleepy country store, a service station, motel, a bar and a cafe, and the big pool fed by the springs in which they can bathe away some of the aches and pains.

Without the springs there would have been very little reason for the existence of Shoshone, and it was apparently that system of naturally flowing waters that caught the eye of Ralph Jacobus Fairbanks back in the late 1800's. Probably, Fairbanks was no visionary pioneer consciously setting out to develop a town. He was a freighter and trader who pitched a tent near the springs and who started up a business hauling goods from the railhead at Ash Meadows with an 18-horse team.

A community of sorts gathered around Fairbanks' operation and in 1905 it became "Shoshone." He had a daughter, Stella, and she married Charles Brown, and later they owned the thousand-or-so acres that included the town and practically everthing in it.

Brown was the number one big-name in Shoshone, and later, the number one big-name in the entire county. There was power and influence in a thousand acres, no matter that the population was small. He was a supervisor for 20 years, a state senator for several terms enjoying positions on the state senate's four or five most influential committees, and people were soon naming buildings and streets and monuments to his memory.

Brown had a daughter, Bernice. She was born just a few years after the town was established. She was off at school in Redlands when she met and married Maury Sorrells, a lawyer. They moved to northern California to start their own family, but then World War II came along. Sorrells was a polio victim and the armed services turned him down.

A lot of the male population in Shoshone left town, called into the service or to the defense factories that were offering good wages in the early 40's, and Brown needed help. He called in his son-in-law to - quite literally - run the town. And so Bernice came home again, never to leave.

Brown saw in his daughter the intelligence, the vitality and the free-wheeling ideas and determination that he himself was known for, and it was Bernice perhaps more than any other in the family line that pushed and fought and hollered and politicked to get the town what she thought it needed: Its own school district which she almost personally tore away from the Big Pine school district (The family donated the land, and, before that, Brown had paid a teacher out of his own pocket until the county



*Bernice
Sorrells
1913-1980*

Bernice and Maury Sorrells helped to build and operate the town's service stations. They had returned to Shoshone to help out her father, Charles Brown.



"...an irony to any biographical sketch about Sorrells..."

could pick up the bill); a community building which is open to all, courtesy of the family; electric power and telephone service.

Last week, Bernice's surviving son, Charles Sorrells, candidly recalled the pre-electric days: "Dad had installed some big generators, he was a diesel mechanic and knew how to make them work. That's where everybody got their power. And the town went to bed when dad did: He'd finish reading his Time magazine, go to the bathroom, shut off the generators and go to bed. Nobody could do much but follow his lead on that."

The Sorrells also pushed for telephone service. Until 1961, there was a single crank-type phone that linked up similar one-instrument towns like Tecopa and Death Valley Junction. When the caller turned the crank an operator answered in San Bernardino, and everybody shouted a lot to be heard on the line. Finally, a dial system came in, just a few short years after electric power.

The Sorrells also decided that their town - which was purchased, not inherited, from Charles Brown - also needed further updating. Remote areas needed television perhaps even more than did the urban folk who always had other amusements. Maury Sorrells installed a translator system that provided the service, but, like all cable and translator system owners, he had trouble collecting for the service. (Later, when he died, Bernice forgave all the past indebtedness and gave the system to the people of Tecopa and Shoshone; they voted an initiative in which property owners, the biggest of which was Bernice, paid the maintenance charges. The county now owns and operates the system.)

And then there was the spring-fed pool, originally built of railroad ties. Brown and the Sorrells concreted it in. The people of the

town pitched in to do most of the work, underwritten by Brown and a local mine owner.

And there was other growth: a town airstrip and the county yard donated by the Sorrells to Inyo County.

But a listing of all the town's growth and Bernice Sorrells' projects would require a book. Suffice it to say that the "really big" project in recent years was her determined effort to provide some sort of medical facility for the area. There were a lot of older people in town, the snowbirds, and others injured in accidents. And Shoshone was far away from help. And that fact itself provides an irony to any biographical sketch about Sorrells

There are those, including her son and daughter, who say that if she had been able to complete her medical clinic project sooner, then the cancer that killed her might have been discovered early enough to have saved her life.

She spent much of the last three years of her life toward bringing a clinic to her town. Rebuffed time and again by state and federal agencies and unable to pry loose enough county dollars to provide a real medical service, Bernice and her daughter, Susan Sorrells, made the clinic issue into a virtual crusade. A couple of summers ago they packed sleeping bags into a family station wagon and took off on a trip "all over California." Bernice and Susan visited clinics in every town and village, and they took notes. Their notes revealed - convincingly - that Shoshone was as much, or more, qualified for federal and state grants-in-aid than many of the towns they had visited on their trip. They presented their evidence to US Senator Alan Cranston and to

continued

SORRELLS...

the state representatives, Walter Stiern and Larry Chimbole. Finally, they got action: \$150,000 in federal grants, another \$30,000 in state funding. Not a lot, but enough for a start. Meanwhile they had set up a kind of clinic operation in a couple of mobile homes.

With much of her project accomplished, Bernice took off on a vacation trip to China. She had seen much of the rest of the world in previous years, but China to her was an entirely new adventure.

She returned in March of '79 suffering what she thought was some kind of intestinal problem, possibly a parasite picked up in the Orient. Apparently, the doctors concurred; she was given some medication, but it did not help. She made few visits to the doctors - They were "too far away."

Finally, she went to the South Coast Community Hospital at Laguna Beach for tests. They operated immediately for what had been diagnosed as colonic cancer. But it had spread to the liver. That was in April. Then came the treatments in the following months.

It never occurred to the town matriarch that she would not "beat" the cancer. Most people who learned of it heard about it from her; there were never any complaints about pain or discomfort - she was not a complainer - and she spoke about the cancer with an amiable detachment that was unnerving to many who attempted a polite avoidance of the subject in her presence. She mentioned that when it was all over she would like to get into some sort of counselling to help cancer patients. There was never, until the two weeks before her death, any external evidence that

she was dying or even ailing. She continued to serve on the county's planning commission, continued to operate and oversee her town (She had hired good employees and she had set up for them a profit-sharing arrangement, typical of her populist attitudes), and showed a remarkable vitality and energy. "She would sometimes come up here to attend meetings, she would go to dinner, maybe have a drink with friends, come home at midnight or one or two o'clock, then, as usual, get up early. She never seemed to tire, she was like that," said her writer-daughter Susan.

By "early," Susan meant 4:30 - 5a.m. It had been her mother's habit to jog to the town pool, then do some yoga exercises, and start to work at around 6. It was a life-pattern rarely broken even in her last days.

Then, late in January, she became ill. She went to Loma Linda Hospital where she died in early-February. "We never saw any pain in her eyes; she was always positive and smiling. We really don't know," said Susan, "if she was hurting or how bad. That's the way she approached everything, uncomplaining."

In a family town like Shoshone, what happens when the patriarch, and then the matriarch, passes on?

Susan Sorrells, who for the past two years has been listed as one of the contributing writer-photographers on the News-Letter staff, spoke with candor:

"Shoshone will go to my brother and me, and we intend to keep building. We've been working with Mother for the past few years. Not a lot will change, except more growth.

"The clinic is established now. That's what

AUTO PARTS & SALES

THREE LOCATIONS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MAMMOTH LAKES
934-3366
BEHIND THE OUTFITTER
IN PINE TREE PLAZA

BRIDGEPORT
932-7740
ON
MAIN STREET

JUNE LAKE
648-7785
ON
MAIN STREET

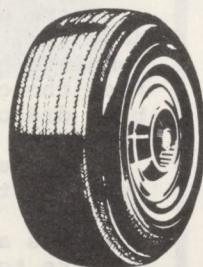
Where Service Comes First

• SNOW-TIRE SALE: 15% OFF

"Delta"

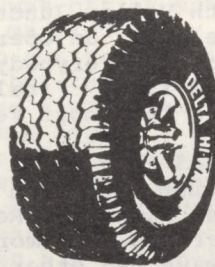
DISCOUNT TIRE STORE

— QUALITY —



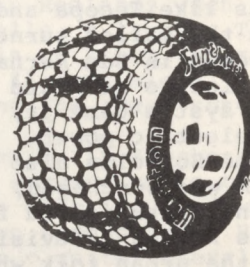
PASSENGER

— PRICE —



TRUCK

— SERVICE —



FUN & MUD

NEW — USED — RECAPPED

— RADIAL TIRE HEADQUARTERS —

ASK ABOUT DELTA'S "ROAD HAZARD & TRUCK GUARANTEE"

• COMPUTERIZED BALANCING

• CUSTOM WHEELS

WESTERN • KEYSTONE • AMERICAN

• WHEEL ALIGNING AVAILABLE

BISHOP STORE

873-7442

115 S. MAIN - BISHOP

BRIDGEPORT STORE

932-7741

MAIN ST. - BRIDGEPORT



we wanted more than anything else. It will soon be open. There's enough money, along with donations, to even build a building. We'll have a doctor and a nurse practitioner in the next few months. Too bad we couldn't have gotten this through quicker, but all the agencies said we 'weren't qualified.' Well, we disproved that and finally got the funding we need...

"We do have some more plans for the town - like solar and wind energy for everybody, for all the properties. And we're doing some experimental things to create production of some sort...

"For instance, we have built a catfish pond. A fish-farm. It's a good source of protein and a marketable product. Right now, we have a half-acre pond that will produce about fifteen-hundred two-and-a-half-pound catfish...It may be successful and if it works we will expand.

"The main thing we're aiming for is self-sufficiency. But a self-sufficiency balanced with esthetics. We want an attractive town.

"My brother and I will see to that."

Last Sunday, Bernice Sorrells was laid to rest in the town she moved back to as a young married woman. It was a simple graveside service. She was buried in the graveyard established many years back. She will rest there beside about 30 of the departed townsfolk. Yes, the family provided the land and started the cemetery, too.

Cosmetic Eyewear.

From the creators of the world's most beautiful faces.



Eight exquisite eyeglass frames in a palette of sixteen face-flattering colors. Each and every one created with Elizabeth Arden's special beauty expertise. Each designed to complement your total look in many subtle ways. And the incredible Elizabeth Arden Eyewear Selector (actually programmed by a makeup artist) helps make your frame selections beautifully personal—beautifully easy. Stop in soon and see this exciting new collection of Cosmetic Eyewear.

Elizabeth Arden
COSMETIC EYEWEAR BY SHURON

(LA MONTANA PLAZA - BEHIND SAFEWAY)
157 SHORT ST. BISHOP

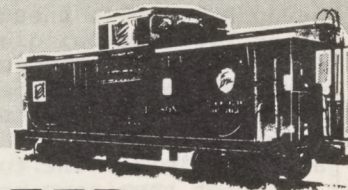
OWENS VALLEY
OPTICAL
873-7740

The most complete
local and area
news coverage in the
Eastern High Sierra
at 7:05, 8:05, 12:05 and 5:05
immediately following
UPI world news...

STEREO FM 100

KIOQ/FM
'fm radio one hundred'

WOODY & CABOOSE



END OF THE LINE FOR A LONG CAREER

Photos: John Heston

LONE PINE STATION AGENT FIRMAN WOOD RETIRES AS THE S-P COMPUTERS TAKE OVER

Finding no pine tree in a town named Lone Pine, Firman Wood started a seedling and planted it near the train station where he would be working as a Southern Pacific agent northeast of Lone Pine. The tree is still there, but the job is ending. The day of station agents, like the day of steam locomotives, is over.

"Woody" has served as Lone Pine's station agent since 1956 supervising the loading of Inyo's ore output, and the loading of the lava hauled down to

the Lone Pine railhead by truck. Actually, Woody is a latecomer to Inyo railroading; the station he has lived and worked in was built in about 1908. The trains then served to supply equipment for the construction of the Los Angeles aqueduct, returning to L.A. with the agricultural produce of the valley - produce that the aqueduct would finally destroy.

The Lone Pine link also included the then-bustling community of Keeler, and joined a trunk line that went into Nevada. Woody served at Keeler before coming to Lone Pine; that was in the time soon after World War II.

What happened to the railroads? "Trucking," he is quick to answer. "That's what happened." And he had been a long-time observer of the decline of American railroading; Some years before the war he began his career with the St. Louis-San Francisco line, working as a telegraph operator.

There was a day not too many years ago when Southern Pacific followed a three-trains-a-week schedule into Inyo. "But business has dropped off. They're still taking loads out - talc, perlite, tungsten, copper, about 25-30 carloads to Mojave each month," hardly enough to justify the presence of a sta-



"Woody" and "Caboose" greet callers at the Lone Pine Station

tion agent when Mojave's computer systems can do the job.

Faced with the decrease in business, Southern Pacific officials started thinking about cutting expenses. As Woody reached retirement age (He is 68), they made the decision which this past month became official. Paul Garrett, an assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles Division of Southern Pacific, spoke candidly about the realities of railroading: "We're in business to make money. We'll be filing with the Public Utilities Commission to abolish the station agent's job here. I've been calling all my freight customers to let them know. It will be about the last part of April before it's all

ed as home for many years, and they were reluctant to leave. But the impersonal demands of business and profit do not always cut into the lives of the people involved in executive decisions; Woody and Frances will remain at the station apartment as "caretakers" for as long as they like.

Paradoxically, Ms. Wood numbers among her friends a lot of the people that helped to break the railroads - the truckers. From a base Citizens Band radio at the station she talks with them for hours as they drive through the valley. Her CB radio "handle," appropriately enough, is "Caboose."



SP

P.N. Garrett



Southern Pacific officials

R.H. Sims

"We're in business to make money. We'll be filing with the PUC."

done."

Garrett discounted the rumors making the round last year, rumors that carried the dark threat of a complete pull-out of railroad facilities at Lone Pine. "We were kind of misquoted," he said. We have been making studies of our operations. Woody's functions have been reduced since things got more computerized."

Woody will not be leaving entirely. He and his wife, Frances, had earlier had some concern about that. The apartment over the station had serv-

SEE A GOOD MOVIE..TONIGHT!

MARCH 2ND - "WHEN A STRANGER CALLS" (R)

& "GAME OF DEATH" WITH BRUCE LEE (R)

MARCH 5TH - "THE BLACK HOLE" (PG)

& "ARABIAN ADVENTURE" (G)

BOTH IN DOLBY STEREO

MARCH 12TH - "A FORCE OF ONE" (R)

& "ENFORCER" WITH CLINT EASTWOOD (R)

MARCH 19TH - "THE ELECTRIC HORSEMAN" (PG)

WITH ROBERT REDFORD & JANE FONDA

"LOST AND FOUND" (PG)

MARCH 26TH - "THE JERK" WITH STEVE MARTIN (R)

& "ANIMAL HOUSE" (R)

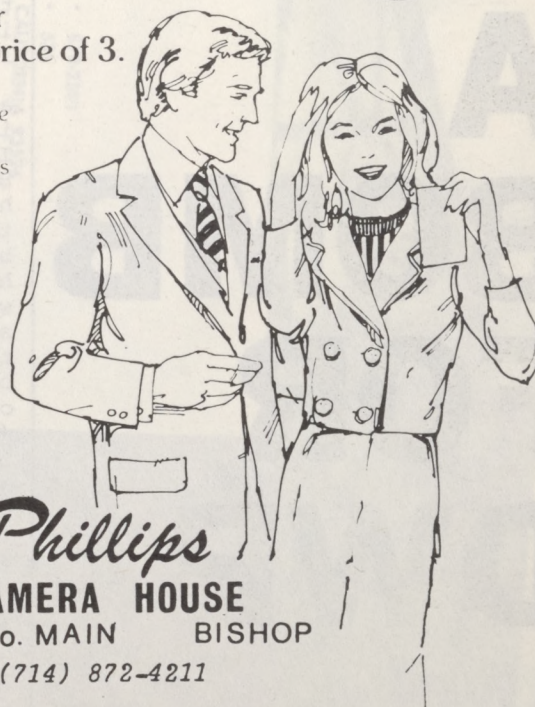
BISHOP THEATRE
SHOWTIME 7 P.M.
PHONE 873-3575

**"Make one for me...
FREE."**

**NO
NEGATIVE
NEEDED.**

**KODAK Color Prints or
Color Slides. 4 for the price of 3.**

Here's a great opportunity to save money while you share the good times in pictures with your friends and family. For a limited time, bring in your favorite conventional or instant prints, and we'll have Kodak make 4 same-size color prints or color slides for the price of 3. 1 is Free. **NO NEGATIVES NEEDED!** See us now for complete details. Offer ends March 12, 1980.



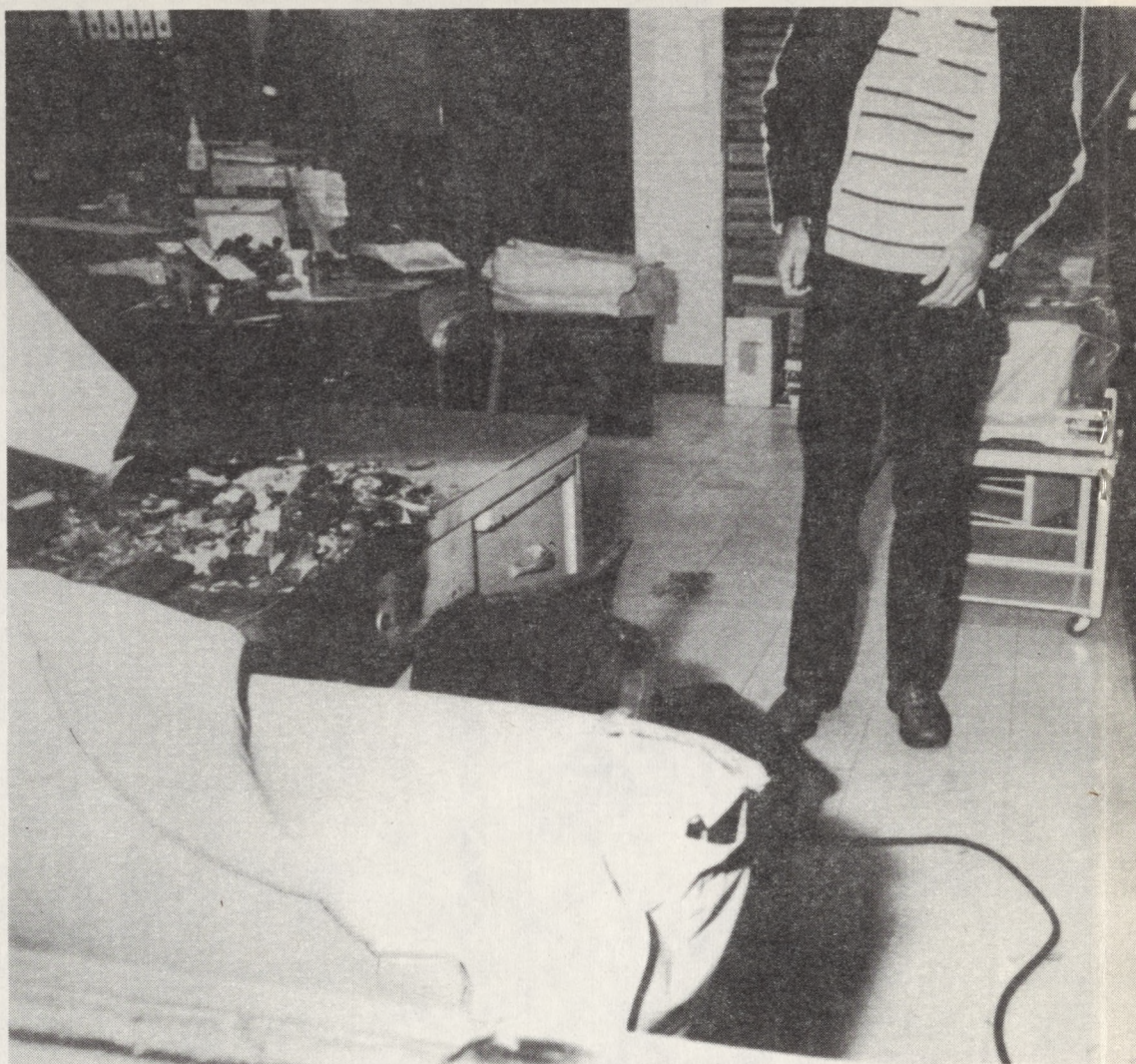
**Phillips
CAMERA HOUSE**

186 No. MAIN BISHOP

(714) 872-4211



A News-Letter camera held outside a shattered window reveals damage caused by a "Molotov Cocktail" firebomb. The bomb smashed through the window, landed on or near a desk in the DWP billing and records office, charred the desk and a chair and made a mess, but it failed to ignite; The bomb was not made of gasoline.



As Inyo tempers mount...

A BOMB FOR DWP

"Whoever did it, knew what they were doing. All the billing data, computer information. It was all in that office."

After the first excited reactions to a firebomb thrown into the old DWP building at Independence, State Fire and Bomb Investigator Dave Walizer had come into town to look over the damage and determine as best he could what the bomb was, how it was made and, perhaps, who threw it. He said at the start of the investigation that the bomb "failed to ignite because it came apart. It broke on the floor, and the wick (that would have ignited it) fell on the desk." The investigator declined to give all the details he found. He did say that it was "a readily available bottle," and that the fuel contained in it had not immediately been identified. It was "something like" kerosene or diesel fuel, not the gasoline-oil combination contained in more sophisticated "Molotov Cocktails." The remains of the

bomb were sent off to a laboratory operated by California's department of justice for analysis.

The analysis may - or may not - turn up fingerprints on the glass. Usually, fire bombers pay little concern to such prints since any on the glass would presumably be destroyed by the ensuing explosion and fire. It is possible that such prints left with careless concern by the bomber could become a crucial part of the Independence investigation.

The DWP building was unguarded in the early morning hours in which the bomb was thrown - an indication in itself that DWP remains curiously unconcerned - or still unaware - of the increasing tensions and anger that lie just beneath the surface in the minds of literally hundreds of resentful Inyo residents. As for the bombing incident, DWP is "lucky," said Walizer. "If it had ignited it would have taken a month to reconstruct every-

eastern sierra news service

JOHN HESTON • BENETT KESSLER

(714) 878-2582 • 878-2381

P. O. BOX 275 • 531

INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA 93526

Sorry, but . . .

...your subscription to the

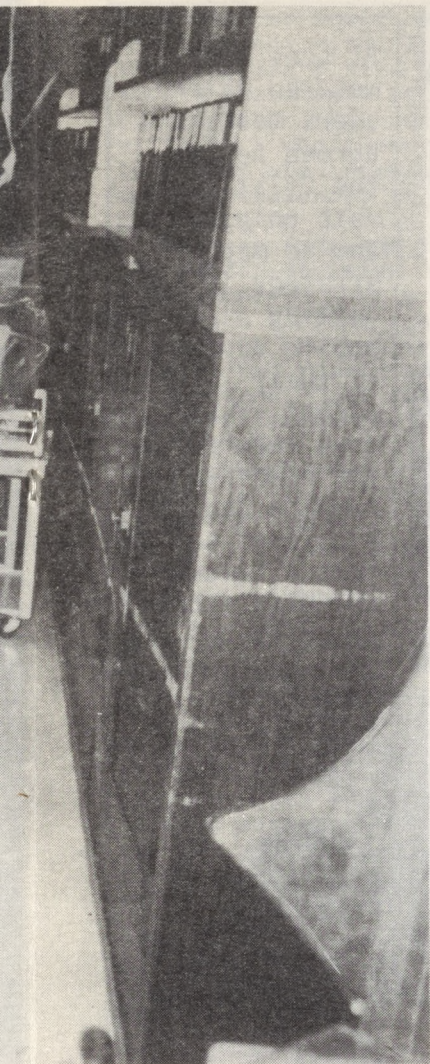


(formerly the Inyo County News-Letter)

. . . has expired

(For now, we're keeping you on the mailing
list - but please let us hear from you)

"May the news in your day be good news every day"



Photos:
John Heston
Benett Kessler

DWP repair and maintenance people went to work and the investigation got underway. Late last week Sheriff Floyd Barton said there was "nothing new" in the bombing case. Asked if he thinks the bombing had anything to do with DWP policies in Inyo County, he replied, "I have no idea. I can't speculate." and he said that other than the bombing there have been no other new vandalism reports - that one incident "is not an indication that a pattern of violence is occurring."



thing." He said that it was "just a fluke" that the bomb did not work. In that case - at that hour - much of the building could have been destroyed.

Why, Walizer was asked, did he think the bombing occurred?

"I have to assume that it's over the controversies. I am surprised that they had no security with the (political) climate the way it is." Walizer has already investigated at least two other arson incidents since the DWP controversy turned into a "hot war."

The bomb had been discovered about 6:30 by an early-morning worker who told investigators that he had smelled smoke from outside the building. Walizer said that the smoldering wick fire burned itself out, resulting in damage of only about \$500. Asked if he knew how many people might be involved, he said he had no way of knowing.

Word of the bombing spread through the valley much faster than the intended fire spread (cont.)



At Lone Pine, metered water users met and agreed to pay the "flat rate only," and to map strategy in getting public support of their effort. Just days before the bombing, someone had plastered a bumper sticker on DWP's front door (Cover).

through DWP's billing offices - the offices where the new metered billings are computed and forwarded to reluctant water bill payers. The reaction was frankly one of suppressed glee, although most people spoke publicly with a pretended alarm. All expressed disdain at such tactics - for the record. But private comments, even to news people, were much stronger and much to the point: "Sometimes people will try every honorable course they know, but if that doesn't get results they will do what they think is necessary to get an oppressor off their backs."

"The enemy knows we're here. But they haven't shown one bit of concern about our rights or our needs. It's flooding in L.A. but if you'll check you'll see that the goddamned pumps are still going."

And so on...endlessly.

Apparently, the Los Angeles brass was becoming suddenly aware - and too late concerned - about the public reaction to their policies here. They were also concerned about just how much barely-suppressed glee was making the rounds over the bombing. So, dealing once again with the forms rather than the realities, the DWP called on the board of supervisors to make official their (presumed) disapproval: DWP requested a formal supervisors' decree condemning the bombing. Privately, DWP officials called on at least one elected official for something



else, too: with a nervous politeness DWP inquired whether that official, or anybody else, might know if there might be "an organization" behind the bombing.

And so the supervisors - always accommodating in such matters - agreed to the statement. It was a noticeably brief one, but the supervisors managed to refer, as if they might be gagging over their own words, to the bombing incident as "an unfortunate incident," and a "criminal act." They did point out, as long as they were at it, that violence of that sort might possibly have "a damaging and detrimental effect on the county's efforts to resolve our problems with the city." An analysis of the latter statement failed to turn up any clear in-

terpretation: Would DWP possibly punish Inyo again because of what had been termed an "isolated incident"?

All the supervisors were not terribly happy about bowing to DWP's request for an official tongue-clucking apologia. Although they voted unanimously to make the statement - a concession to DWP's sense of propriety - at least one had other comments outside the board room. Supervisor Richard McDonald told reporters that "I voted yes on that even though I didn't like the request."

Why, he was asked.

"Because it would have been one of those 'When did you quit beating your wife' situations. "I was a little miffed that they even have the audacity to sug-

gest that we would advocate violence of any kind. I think that they shouldn't have asked for such a statement. It's an insult. Why do they need this in writing? I wholeheartedly object that they are intimating that we condone violence. It was in very bad taste."

What in fact had triggered the sudden decision on the part of someone to hurl a bomb at DWP? Such violent reactions are not new to the valley; they are usually the result of total frustration - and due to DWP's punitive arrogance. It had been learned much earlier, for instance, that DWP's high-level decision to install water meters (a project shown by DWP's own economic feasibility studies to be an unprofitable investment) was for no reason other than to "punish" what amounted to a rebellion in DWP's Inyo colonies. When the water bills themselves came along there arose a quiet, seething outrage, the sudden appearance of advertisements and bumper stickers calling for a water payer's strike, DWP feigned surprise at the reaction but DWP also knew that a slight increase in the so-called "flat rate" would probably have been more profitable, financially and otherwise, and would have met little or no resistance. In the minds of most people, the issue was simple: Having exhausted every other means to deal reasonably with DWP, ordinarily peaceful and complacent minds were turning to thoughts of burning. Again, it had become increasingly clear that DWP, and even some of Inyo's own officials, had seriously underestimated the public temper.

And in the midst of the ongoing 70-year controversy, how was the water users' strike fairing? Even as the residents of another town (Big Pine) got their new metered water bills, there were disputed estimates of the number of people actually refusing to pay the bills. Lois Wilson, spokeswoman for the Owens Valley Concerned Citizens, said that it appeared to her that "quite a few" people had joined the strike, that some of them were paying bills (at the flat rate) that were actually more than metered bills. Water connections at Lone Pine number around 400, and to urge a unity of strikers the committee mailed out about 1000 letters. Some local stores had also distributed the letters.

In one determined show of strength at Big Pine an entire

church congregation agreed to strike.

But if figures released through DWP's Lloyd Anderson are to be believed, the strike is less successful than some of its leaders had hoped. Anderson said late in the month that of about 400 Lone Pine customers, 299 had paid their bills with only 78 paying no more - nor less - than the "flat rate." Wilson said that calls indicated to her that "about 150-60 were striking."

And warnings continued to go out from DWP's Bishop office. In radio interviews and in response to callers - and also at several earlier public meetings, Owens Valley Engineer Jim Wickser said that DWP's delinquent customers will be dealt with, that their water service will "definitely" be cut off. DWP opponents on the other hand say that no one who strikes should hold any real fears of a DWP

turnoff; that "if everyone sticks together" the strike will be effective.

A few strike proponents had also put some hopes in the county health department - that the health people would not allow cutoffs for health reasons. But a health department spokesman said the department would be of very little help, that there is no county ordinance that prohibits a water cutoff.

Meanwhile, a number of southland editors were watching developments in the strike; most were holding off, but asking local news people to tip them off "immediately" if and when DWP actually turns off someone's water because of an unpaid or only partially paid bill. In recent months a number of southland media outlets have become increasingly sympathetic to Owens Valley's difficulties with DWP.

**For fast response
to service calls . .**

**CAL GAS is totally
DEPENDABLE**

Count on us for:

- Propane Supply
- Safe Installations
- Planned Deliveries
- Trained Service



CAL GAS - BISHOP, Inc.

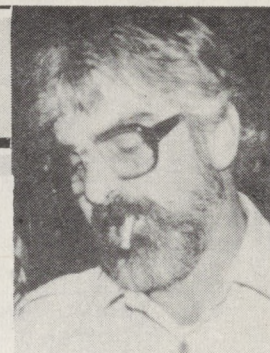
• N. MAIN STREET ————— Call 873-6371

• LONE PINE ————— 876-4420

MAMMOTH-934-6333

Ready to serve your propane needs.

Wally's View



Wally Charleston

IT'S 4 AM. At this cold hour there is no life visible in Mammoth Lakes village. The thermometer reads a degree or two below the zero mark. The only sound comes from the high-pitched whine of a Greyhound Bus lumbering heavily to its drop. Once in the parking lot where the Inyo-Mono Bank, Snow's Corral and the postoffice are located, there is a rush of air as the driver sets brakes.

Three sleepy passengers step onto frozen ground and in seconds, the cold is biting their toes through flatland shoeleather. The youngster seeks out a doorway. The driver pulls out luggage and skis, sets them on the ground and bids them goodnight. Dad walks briskly to the paystation phone on the wall by the Post Office. He drops a dime, dials the number for a cab and cusses shortly when he loses the dime. He failed to read the behind-the-times phone directions. When he finally gets through, he discovers no cabs are running at this late hour. Again he cusses. After a quick conference with the wife, now huddled with the youngster who's teeth are chattering and lips are turning slightly blue, Dad goes to the phone again. He dials operator and asks to be put through to the county sheriff. He describes the call an emergency. In minutes a deputy responds and the family is loaded into a county vehicle and taken to their shelter. Dad is damn mad and so are all the other passengers dumped out in the dead of night in the freezing cold by Greyhound. The farce has existed for months. The Mono Supervisors know about it. Many have registered complaints and though an emergency exists, none of our local representatives seem to be able to - or want to - solve the problem. The Supervisors are doing nothing to help. And doing nothing ain't gonna make the problem go away...

THE BUS STOP ISSUE IS just one hurdle The Mammoth Lakes Chamber Of Commerce is fighting desperately to get over. You see, the Chamber has a short bankroll, little or no staff, and an eroding communication with public officials. To some degree the predicament has caused a portion of members to lose enthusiasm and salt the town and county with rumors that the Chamber may disband. Topping that, the Mono Supervisors say that the crucial assistance

funding the Chamber has received from the county over the years may have been illegal. It may be discontinued. That would leave the Chamber flat broke.

Chamber President, Dan (The Mogul) Haydon has had a number of emergency meetings over the past few months with top members of his board. They've outlined pressing priorities. Haydon feels the Chamber has to be jolted into coming together. It needs new blood. New money. More volunteer work on the part of present members. Mail resembles a small mountain, some unanswered since October. Haydon is determined to correct things, much

of which he inherited when he took over.

As a start, Haydon lined up the TV crew of Weeknight (Channel 3, Sacramento) for a full week's coverage of Mammoth. For prime time viewing, Bob Murphy and Mel Boyd were given the Royal Red Carpet Treatment: a dining tour, Heli-skiing and what life's like if you're a ski-bum. Great entertainment. Super publicity. The News Service tagged along on Channel 3's Whiskey Creek coverage and had the pleasure of running into a beautiful visitor, Vicki Carr. On-the-ball manager, John Eastman arranged for the photos. But what it all



Photo:
Wally Charleston

Singer Vicki Carr and Kay Charleston running into a beautiful visitor

boils down to is Haydon's been good for the Chamber.

Early in the month, Chamber members showed up in respectable numbers at The Conference Room at Sierra Nevada Inn. Walt Lotterly was good enough to book it for free and there was Shakey's (because he's a member and his pizza's good) pizza and drinks. After going through the motions of nominating new board members, there were speakers. Bill (Chevron) White of AAA is getting a towing association together to curb some of the rip-offs the Lakes District Revue (who didn't show up) mentioned recently. After Bill White spoke there was Wayne (no relation) White, Mono's new Road Boss. He fielded questions on snow removal and dropped the bombshell in Mammoth that the airport was a "mess" and "the county is withdrawing." It's another concern the Chamber has had and everybody's jaw dropped as did that of E.L. Manor, recently announced candidate for supervisor.

After the excitement, Haydon thanked Bill and Lois (Union 76) Melton for staying buried up to their elbows in Chamber paperwork backed up since October, 79. He thanked others, who



Chamber Secretary Paul DeSalvo and outgoing President Haydon
It boiled down to a good job for the chamber

voiced large support for the Chamber in 1980. He welcomed Rusty Gregory of Heli-Ski and Attorney Mike Ross into the fold. Kerry (Mono Herald - who did show up) Watkins drew wild

applause when he said something boring like he'd participate in Summer again this year. And that was about it. The enthusiasm is there to have a great Chamber. The members want it. →

Sun Country Realty

Look what we've got!

Town House: Two-bedroom, two full baths, stream, tennis court. \$119,500.

Large home: Three-bedroom, dining room, family room, 1950 Sq. ft. \$89,000.

Fixer-upper: For the do-it-yourselfer, a two-bedroom home on R-3 lot. \$63,000.

Also: Selection of mobile homes, lots and acreage. Look over our listings!

• For a brighter tomorrow, call us today.

Suite 4, Town House Motel

625 N. Main St., Bishop Ca. 93514 (714) 873-7117

GLIDDEN SURVEYORS & ENGINEERS

OFFERING:

- STRUCTURAL
- SOILS
- WATER SURVEY AND DESIGN
- SUBDIVISIONS

SERVING CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA

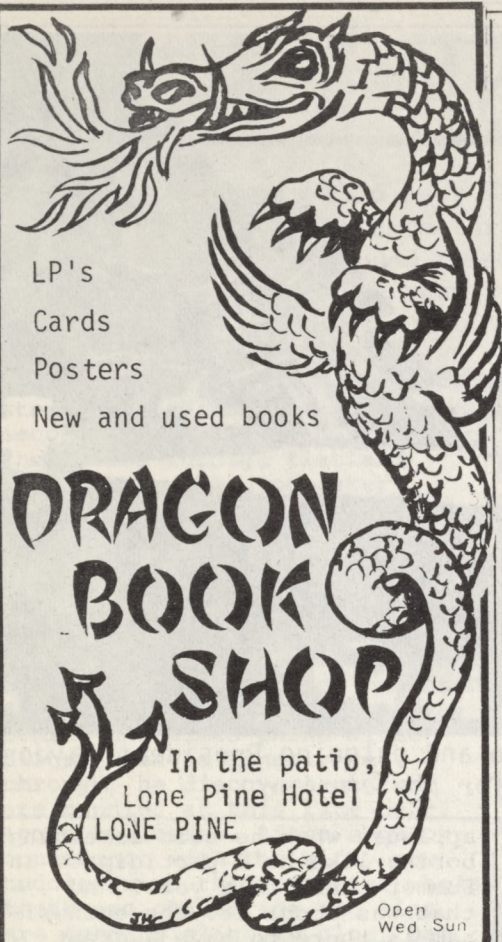
GLIDDEN ENGINEERING CORPORATION

Rt.1, N. Barlow • P.O. Box 84 • Bishop

Registered Civil Engineers & Licensed Land Surveyors

BISHOP OFFICE 873-3086/3085

MAMMOTH OFFICE 934-3341



LP's
Cards
Posters
New and used books

DRAGON BOOK SHOP

In the patio,
Lone Pine Hotel
LONE PINE

Open
Wed-Sun

The question is: Do they want to work at it???

EVERYBODY IN MAMMOTH knows Judge Bill Murano. We see him at school functions, pumping his own gas and explaining to the Sheriff's men that he'll keep the matches high so our forests will be preserved. (This writer has an eight-year-old, too). Murano is running for Superior Court Judge against Harry Roberts of Bridgeport (who we don't see much of in Mammoth). The race promises to be a hot one.

LEW COVERT, Mono Building Inspector was fired Monday, Feb. 4. Attorney Sandra (Toni to friends) Medina will do battle for him at an upcoming hearing. Unjust...? May be. Political kind of rumors starting. Covert was vocal in his support of Murano, obtaining signatures for the Judge on a recently circulated Petition In Lieu Of Filing Fee.

MY FAVORITE LADY in Bridgeport, Dixie (Country Kitchen) Swearengin feeds me every Tuesday. Some of the news tid-bits on board meeting days send me to my notebook after lunches.

JUNE LAKE'S KIDS who attend Lee Vining High School have been given "The Women's Room" to study. The book has been the subject of much conversation in that area, some designating it as pornography. Teacher Charlie Simis (who married one of his students) is on the hot seat, thanks to up-in-arms parents.

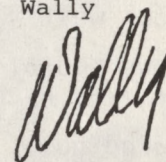
LOOK FOR SPARKS in the alleged burglary charges filed against Shelley Williams by Sheriff's man Al Tronaas. Shelley has never been convicted of a crime, has no background to suggest she could be capable of activities and her family is being very supportive in her defense.

SPEAKING OF AL TRONAAS, we followed him over a twenty-four-hour period and three fires: Whiskey Creek's ladies' restroom where arson is suspected; Laplander Lodge, a possible electrical fire; and Big Wood. Tronaas may be a little overweight but he can move. We observed him in the fiery ruins of Big Wood dodging falling beams and climbing over floors and stairs that were dropping away from him...

THE MONO BOARD'S DECISION to "withdraw" from the Mammoth/June Lakes Airport on the advice of County Council Charles Barrett, comes as no surprise. It's just the beginning of what could be an enormous lawsuit. Meanwhile, the feeling locally is that something must be done to keep the airport open and maintained. Ranger Adams and politicians are huddled in attempts to come up with solutions...

That's it for now, folks. We'll be talking to you soon.

Wally



(Editor's note: Readers may be interested in the response to the first publication of "Wally's View"; letters will be found in News-Letter's "Forum" page.)



GREAT DINING

SALAD BAR
& SOUP

DAILY SPECIALS

Includes soup or salad bar & hot bread

MONDAY—MEAT LOAF with vegetables and home fries; and an original recipe

TUESDAY—STEW
A vegetable and meat potpourri

WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY
SPECIAL FROM THE STEAMER
CRAB LEGS

FRIDAY—TROUT
THE MOGUL RAINBOW
A large boneless trout lightly marinated
CHICKEN
Marinated boneless breast of chicken

SATURDAY—NEW YORK STEAK
Nothing changed but the price

SUNDAY—SWISS STEAK a la Josephine
Peppers, tomatoes, onions and home fries

FRIDAY—TUESDAY—
VEGETABLE PLATE
A variety of vegetables freshly steamed with your choice of butter sauce or cheese

No. 10 Mammoth Tavern Road
934-3039
Open Daily

5pm

Beer & wine.

Reservations
accepted.

MONO FAVORITE



Located on Mammoth Tavern Rd. directly
behind Safeway.

THERE'S A PART OF YOUR BUSINESS THESE PEOPLE KNOW BETTER THAN YOU DO.



They're Communications Consultants for Continental Telephone.

And they make solving your communications problems their business.

You see, our consultants are trained to understand the needs of businesses like yours. And they're backed up by a full team of telephone communications specialists.

Together they'll analyze your business's communications requirements. For now and for the future. Then, working closely with you, they'll develop a system specifically designed to meet those requirements.

You may be surprised how many of your business problems have communications solutions, requiring simple changes in operating procedure.

If additional equipment is required, you'll choose from the most modern available, in PBX systems and data terminals.

Your Communications Consultants will prepare cost figures, supervise installation and see to it that your operators are fully trained.

What's more, they'll continue to work with you for the life of your phone system by regularly spot checking its efficiency and supervising maintenance requirements.

Call your local Continental Telephone Business Office to arrange an appointment.

We want to help. Because if your communications system isn't working for you, it's working against you.



Continental Telephone

You can always call on us.

Inyo-Mono's

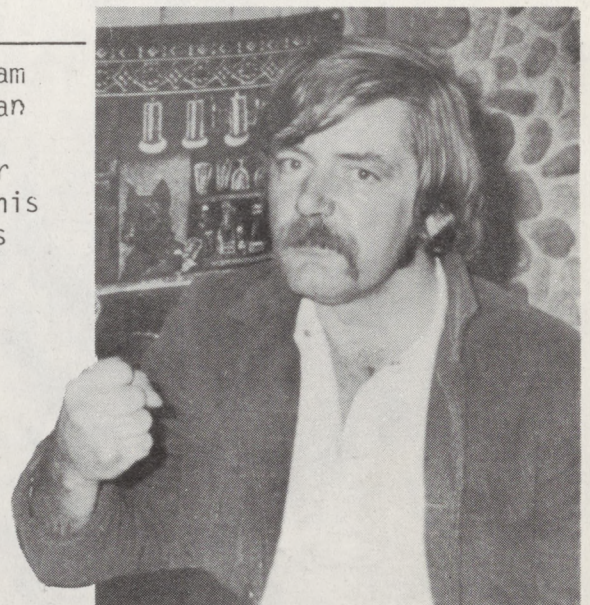
Patriotism is 'in' again.

With the troubles in Iran, and with national suspicions confirmed so rudely in Afghanistan, there has been a kind of re-examination. It has revealed to a dovish society that soldiers of past, present and future wars may after all be valuable people.

College students are actually waving the flag again - but that was not the case when the Vietnam veterans came home, and many of them are confused and angry about that.

There are about 900 Vietvets in the Inyo-Mono area, "little personal islands of discontent, resentment and frustration."

Vietnam
veteran
Bill
Porter
airs his
gripes



*"We're the black conscience
of America....we came back and
America treated us like s...."*

s Vietnam veterans

They're all home now, those whose bodies could be found alive or dead, and the Vietnam war as international conflict is over. In Inyo and Mono Counties there are an estimated 900 veterans, survivors and semi-survivors, and for a few of these there are battles of another kind that rage on.

The veterans work and live scattered all along the Eastern Sierra, little personal islands of discontent, resentment and frustration. A few enjoy success and contented productivity, but their days and nights of content are always shadowed by memories that many would prefer to discard.

They are not exactly the forgotten heroes, they are simply the unrecognized and unapplauded heroes. They are the ones who would not, or could not, split for Canada, and who refused or were unable to buy their way out as "students."

Back home they face problems far different from those of the veterans of other wars: economic, social, psychological. They had been the reluctant stars of television's "Evening News" or "Nightly News" for more than a decade - brought into the home living rooms in dying color. But they were the losers of the war that nobody really wanted to think about or deal with.

Some number of them managed to survive unwounded in battle, but it seems that few if any escaped the uniquely sharp shrapnel of public disdain and criticism.

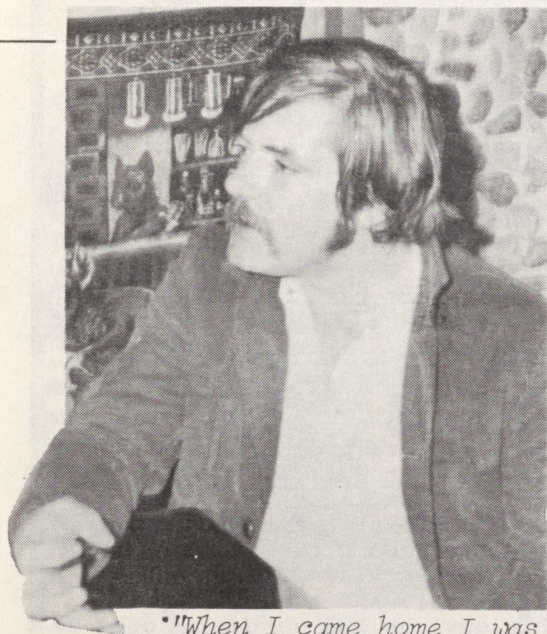
"My God," said one of them. "When I got off

the plane at L.A., a girl spit on me! ...And I had thought maybe somebody would be glad to see me!" And so, for that one at least, the character of America's welcome home greeting revealed itself early. Now, he pulls up his shirt, or his pant-leg, to show you the bullet holes and the shrapnel scars. He has locked away the medals, five Purple Heart decorations that only a very few people are very much impressed with.

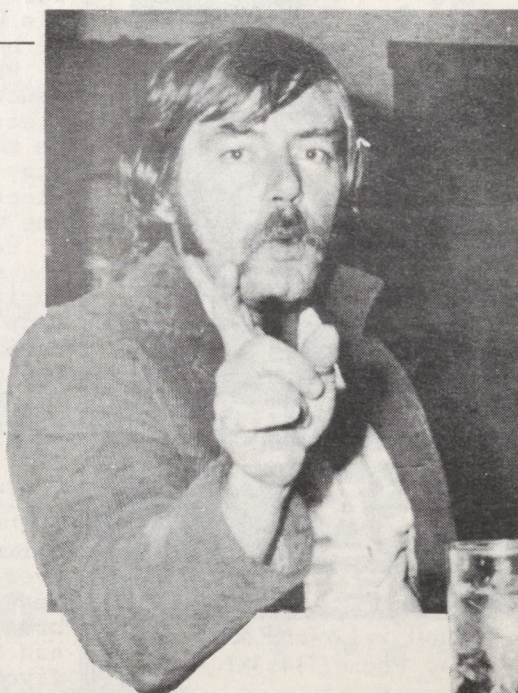
Perhaps because the war and its causes, its meanings and its conduct were unclear, the returning Vietnam veteran was met with a reception that to this day is also mixed and unclear. For most of the vets the wartime experience was chaotic, baffling. Then and now the veterans received or receive little consolation from a timid government and a confused populace. Now, many of Inyo-Mono's veterans - some of them out of the war for a decade - are still trying very hard to find some sense in their experiences, some clean-cut and coherent explanation which so far has eluded them and the people they must deal and live with.

Having endured the senseless war, surviving it more or less, the local veterans seem now to be trying very hard to make sure the post-Viet experience is one of focus. And in the cases where that effort has failed - failed, as the veterans themselves understand failure - then their sense of disappointment and cynicism is really only renewed and deepened.

Continued next page



"When I came home I was spit on at the L.A. International Airport..."



"But if another war came up, I'd be the first in line to enlist..."

Photos: John Heston



COZY FIRESIDE DINING FOR A COLD WINTER EVE



(Open year 'round, now)

PARADISE RESTAURANT

Bishop, off Highway 395. Turnoff on Lower Rock Creek Road, 12 miles north of Bishop. Phone (714) 387-2370

• LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, WEEKENDS
CLOSE MON-TUES

"...FOR MOST OF THE AREA'S VIETVETS, EVERYTHING IS NOT A BED OF ROSES IN INYO-MONO."

There exists a broad range of success-failure stories about Vietnam veterans in the Eastern Sierra. From unemployed "failure" to secure "success" there runs a common thread: negative psychological and emotional impact of the war. Nearly all of them who were contacted and who had anything at all to say (To many, the media is tiresome and bothersome; after all, that old story has already been rehashed a lot, hasn't it?) expressed one way or the other disappointment and/or guilt about not being treated like the heroes they are or think they are.

Post-mortems of the Vietnam war are as plentiful as discarded Purple Hearts. There are as many conclusions and explanations of it as there are veterans and commentators. The Eastern Sierra's vets hold widely divergent views and feelings about it. Most decline to discuss it, having discovered early-on that interested listeners or sympathizers are scarce. But in talking to those who will express themselves, one common truth comes clear: For most of the area's Vietvets, everything is not a bed of roses in Inyo-Mono.

The News-Letter had great difficulty in finding a point of focus on Inyo-Mono Vietnam veterans, and the reporters who worked on the story concluded that it was probably best to let a few of the veterans - and the people who deal with them - tell it in their own words:

Peter Pearson: He is a Vietnam vet and a Bishop councilman

The Vietnam war had a heavy impact on Veteran Peter Pearson - so much so that he is now working on a manuscript telling the story of his wartime service - and the later reactions he has experienced back in the United States.

Pearson's story would be listed on the "success" or "positive" side of the veterans' list. He married after returning from the war, he has a family, he is now the manager of a busy restaurant at Bishop, and he has been elected as one of Bishop's city councilmen. But the war's impact continues.

He went into the service in 1968..."It was the thing you did then. I volunteered for the Marines; I felt it was my responsibility. I didn't even know about any dissent over the war before I went." Clearly, he later discovered the dissent.

"When I was first over there, some of us stayed on the ship during an attack...We heard over the loudspeaker 'Rice paddies are two feet tall...The water is 18 inches deep...The enemy is located.', and I knew that at the same time all this was happening that the Paris peace talks had started (They were then quibbling over such things as what kind of table they'd be using for the talks), and then...They brought back this guy. He had just gone out. He had been gored by a water buffalo, and forty-five minutes later they brought him back down in a green plastic bag. He was dead. It was all so ironic...

"When I came back, I felt practically like

a criminal. I remembered seeing news clips of the World War II men coming home from the war ...parades, ticker tape...everything. But when I came home with my corporal stripes there were twelve senior citizens waiting with some cookies to meet us. Nobody was cheering...

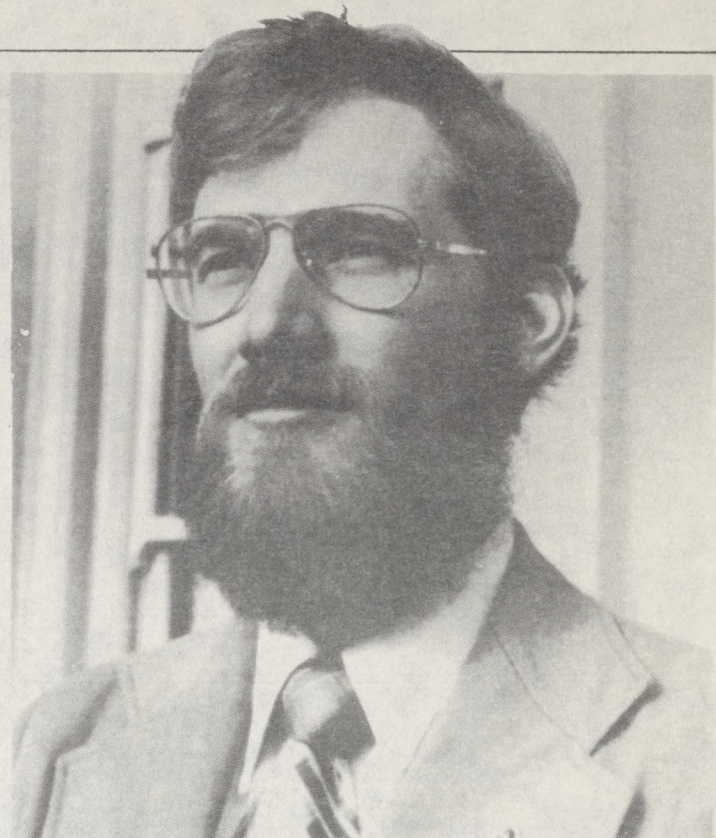
"And I remember an old friend seeing me. He asked if I had been in the service. I told him I had been in Vietnam and he just turned around and walked away. I felt guilty because of the way people reacted.

"But I have thought it out. I don't regret it. But the country didn't fight to win. When there's a war, then they should have fought to the utmost."

Pearson was asked about drugs in the war; for him they had presented no problem. He said there was a "lot of abuse." He added that many of the boys who came into the war later had already begun using drugs in the United States and they continued using them in Vietnam. Drugs were readily available to all servicemen and "often abused."

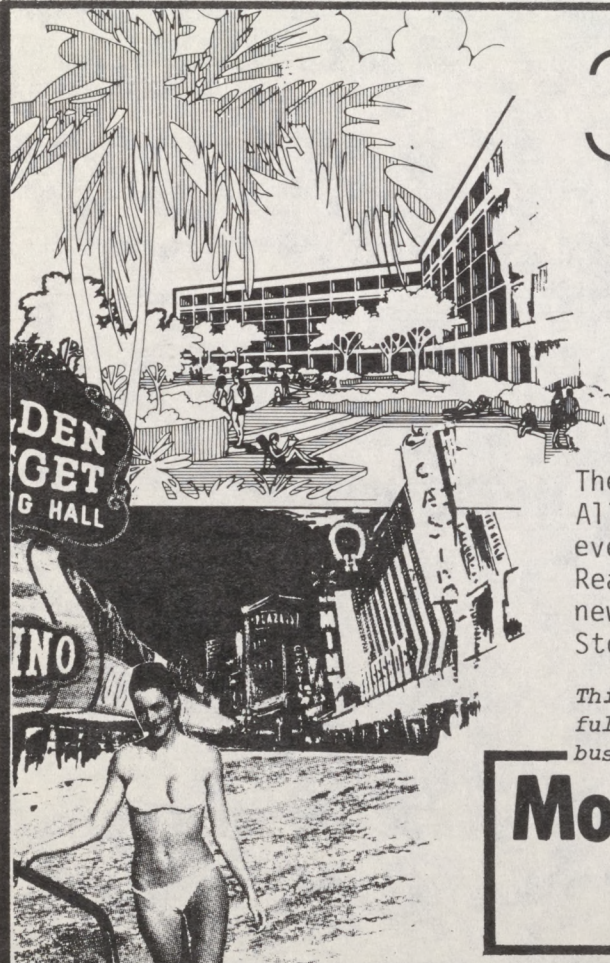
Pearson talks about what he calls the "Vietnam Syndrome." He defines it as a sort of state of mind that includes the guilt - and a continuing fear of death. In Vietnam Pearson talked to himself each night to muster up courage, telling himself that "if I make it through the night, I'll make it through another day." Part of the "night" fear in Vietnam grew out of the fact that Vietnamese friendly through the daylight hours sometimes turned into Vietcong enemies at night. "I never saw a Vietnamese enemy out in the open," says Pearson, "but I've had them shoot at me. And they set booby traps."

Plainly, Pearson is one of the returnees who



Vietnam vet Peter Pearson

"They were kids who made sacrifices that very few of the people in this country were willing to make..."



3 DAYS IN LAS VEGAS.. ..ON US!

The party's on us! Three days, two nights, in Vegas! All expenses paid! This is the offer we're making to everyone who buys a home or a condo from Mono County Realty...Think about it: Before you move into your new home or condo - a few days off for fun! Stop in. Let's talk about it - today!

This offer good through March - from Mammoth's most complete, full-service real estate company: Commercial properties, business opportunities, houses, condos, lots -

Mono County Realty

(714) 934-8566

*In Pine Tree Plaza opposite the Fire Station
Mammoth Lakes
MEMBER MAMMOTH MULTIPLE LISTING
SERVICE*

has adjusted comparatively well. But the war, in its strange psychological way, does continue for him and it interjects itself into his life in frightening ways:

"A thunder and lightning storm came up once, and I dove under a table in fear of my life. It was the noise of the thunder. It took me two or three years to understand why I'd done that, then it suddenly came to me that it was a Vietnam reaction. I had heard what sounded like an explosion so I was jumping into a hole and I was praying that a mortar round wouldn't land on me...

"Sometimes I have fearful moments because of certain sense-responses - and associations - loud noises, passing helicopters, the smell of diesel fuel, the smell of certain kinds of trash and burning wood. A kind of suppressed fear reaction to an unknown and unseen enemy. Sometimes I get angry, almost a rage. It is kind of like holding some great force within you body and not really wanting to let it out. Probably it's all the memories and the trials and hardships - and the friends that were left

behind on some hill in a strange country many years ago..."

Here, Pearson's voice trails off - and then he finds a kind of synthesis, an over-view of the war:

"They were kids...For the most part they were kids. They went to Vietnam under very adverse conditions. They went without clean clothes sometimes for months at a time. They suffered dysentery for weeks on end; they put up with jungle rot, red ants, black ants, flying termites by the millions. Rats, big rats, leaches, mosquitoes. Always there were the mosquitoes, millions of them.

"The kids cried some; they wept while they carried their dead and dying friends to the Medivac helicopters. They were kids who made sacrifices that very few people in this country were willing to make.

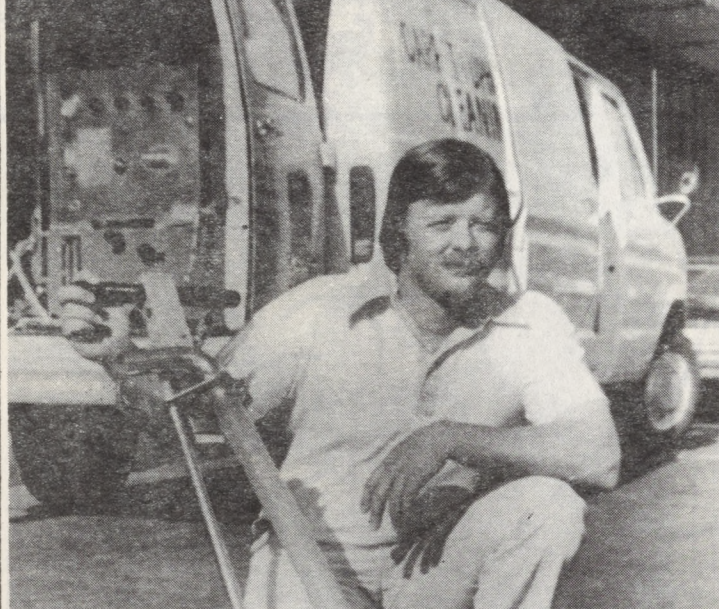
"Someday, I hope the American people will look at us not as baby killers, which I and some of the others have been called, but just as Americans who went to war truly believing that they were protecting our country, our friends, our family. We were really willing to die for the country. And some of us did."

Bill Porter: A kind of loner - and a kind of angry patriot

The listener is struck by the sharp edge of anger that sometimes cuts through the fabric of his talk about Vietnam. Usually soft-spoken and mild-mannered, he seldom reveals the bitterness, but it is there and it asserts itself at those times when conversation turns to politics, government, social issues and economic issues. He's a young man - 33 - and he works as a cook at Big Pine's Country Kitchen cafe. Sometimes when his shift is completed he walks over to see and talk to friends that gather at Rossi's bar across the way.

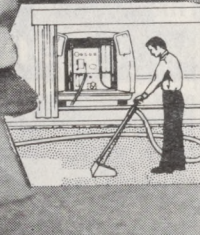
Bill Porter joined the Marines "around '65," when he was "about seventeen." He is proud of his service in the Marines, but he talks about his service in generalities and is wary, usually, of being directly quoted. But one thing he makes explosively clear and he spares no listener's sensitivities in the open use of four-

Get carpets and upholstery really CLEAN!



A powerful vacuum removes the dirt and hot solution to the truck outside. Only the cleaning wand and vacuum hose enters your home.

STEAM GENIE SYSTEM - thorough extraction of dirt and grime.



HIGH SIERRA Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

CALL 7 DAYS - 24 HOURS
873-7032

BACK HOE AND DUMP TRUCK SERVICE



HI MOUNTAIN RENTALS

John Boothe

GARDEN EQUIP: ROTO TILLERS, LAWN MOWERS, WEED EATERS
MISC. PLUMBING TOOLS

• **SEWER PIPE CUTTERS**

2587 W. LINE

873-4924

BISHOP

letter words: "We didn't ask to go, most of us, but America sent us and when we came back, America treated us like s...!"

Porter explained, without regret, that he had earned several decorations. Among these were no fewer than five Purple Hearts: He was shot "several times"; he stepped on a land mine. After the wounds were at least partially healed he returned each time to the battle line. His platoon was pictured in a Life magazine article. When his tour of duty was over, he was honorably discharged as a lance corporal.

Porter's a loner. He has moved around a lot ever since he left his home in Warren, Ohio, at 13. He is cynical about politicians; he is angry at a society that seems to care for very little beyond its own self-indulgence. How does he feel about his country and its present international crises? What if there were another war?

"I'd be the first in line to enlist," he says, and his listener gets the feeling that he means it, that there is a true, though perhaps untrumpeted, patriotism in the man. Some of Porter's views are expressed in pictures at the beginning of News-Letter's veterans' report.

Ray Genghini: "Wars seem to be a separate 'thing'..."

And another Marine had a few words. He had been a Marine sergeant. He maintains a certain philosophical outlook, but the scars become apparent more through his words than through any external examination. Says Ray Genghini, one of the sons of a prominent Philadelphia family: "I was one of the victims of the times. The people of that time sent me there. I guess it was my destiny to go..."

"No matter how the country felt morally about the war then or now, they still made the decision to go and thereby earned the responsibility for it. They will reap from that decision whatever its rewards are.

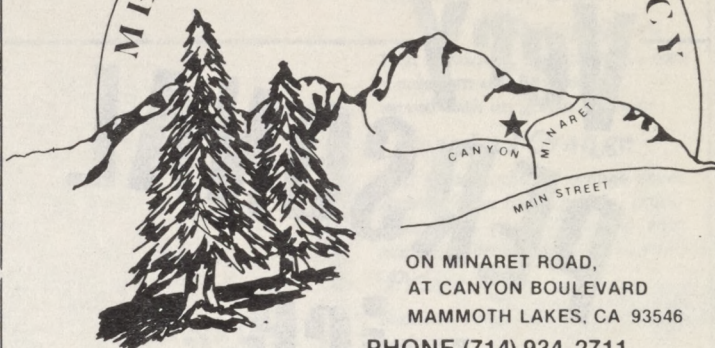
"I cannot condone wars of any kind, of any

A Complete
Drug
Store

MEDICAL ARTS PHARMACY

• Prescriptions
• Crutch Rentals • Medical
Supplies

934-2711



ON MINARET ROAD,
AT CANYON BOULEVARD
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546

PHONE (714) 934-2711

24-HOUR EMERGENCY 934-6271

• Cameras, Kodak Film • Revlon Cosmetics • Gifts
• Beer and Wine • Ray Ban Sunglasses • Greeting Cards

Who says energy doesn't grow on trees?

Hundreds of thousands of thrifty homeowners all across North America are rediscovering how inexpensive it is to heat their homes with wood, a resource that's in plentiful supply.

And many of those same homeowners are warming up to the benefits of heating with the unique Fisher Stove.

What makes the Fisher Stove so unique is that it's remarkably efficient, thanks to a number of patented design features.

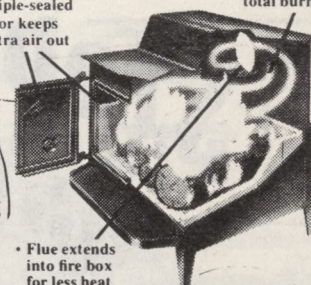
• Secondary
combustion
chamber al-
lows almost
total burning

Fisher: An idea
whose time
has come.

We can show you a variety of Fisher models, all designed to save 50% or more on your heating bills. And we can answer most any question you've got about heating with wood.

So whether you'd like to warm a single room or your entire house, come on in and see what makes a Fisher a Fisher.

• Triple-sealed
door keeps
extra air out



• Flue extends
into fire box
for less heat
loss

Fisher
Stoves

BISHOP
FIRESIDE
& LIGHTING

307 SOUTH MAIN • BISHOP • 873-7321

DISCOUNT
PRICES

FRAMES
make
nice
gifts

714-873-6679

**EASTERN SIERRA
FRAME HOUSE**
QUALITY PICTURE FRAMES
2308 N. SIERRA HWY. BISHOP, CA.

In Mammoth -

Very PERSONAL Service

**By Tom
and Bill**

COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE

- Tune-Ups • Brake Service
- Tires • Batteries
- Lubrication
- Chain Sales & Installation
- PROPANE • WELDING

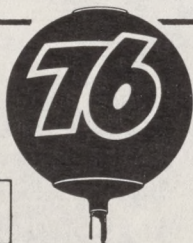
Stop in and see

next to the Bank of America
open 7 days a week.

Tom and Bill
**MAMMOTH
UNION 76**

934-2697

HWY 203 & LAUREL MTN RD. MAMMOTH LKS.



nature. Wars seem to be a separate 'thing'... a 'something' that has gotten out of control. Rational or irrational, caused by man or nature, it doesn't matter a whole lot, not in retrospect. When they are over, it's good to clean up the mess."

Has this country cleaned up the Vietnam "mess"? Genghini couldn't, or wouldn't, say. He is well-educated, of neat appearance. But for weeks he was unable to find work, or to keep the jobs he found. In the past few days he has moved from an apartment he had at Independence to live at Bishop; he had found a job with the Forest Service at close to minimum wage.

**Bill Hastings: From Iwo Jima
to the vet's service office**

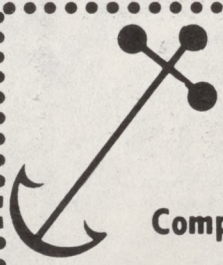
Not all the veterans' figures are immediately available. Vets come and go, and during the war itself it was difficult to keep track. For instance, some inductees lived in one county, or had called it home, then were inducted from another county. The best records available - for Inyo at least - were those released by the county's veteran's service officer, Bill Hastings, himself a veteran of World War II and the battle of Iwo Jima, among others. His records show that 11 Inyoans died in Vietnam. He says that among the 640 Vietvets who live here now there have been a few difficult readjustments.

"It was not exactly a unified war," says Hastings in a deliberate understatement. "The American people were not behind them. There were no big parades to welcome them home. When they re-entered society, they were not considered heroes. No warm welcome."

The "warm welcome" of other wars, the admiration, the pats on the back and the reminders of a job well done, may in fact have been



VSO Hastings
"no big parades"



ANCHOR HERE!

EASTERN SIERRA MOTORS RV BUILDING

Complete Boat Motor & Engine Service
Mercury Marine Boat Motors
Gregor Boats



**910 N. Main, Bishop
873-4291**

the single most important step to a well-integrated readjustment that the veterans of previous wars had to make. They were exposed to the same hardships and horrors, but the welcome home and the pride they took in their effort sped the readjustment.

Asked about the psychological problems and the evidence of drug abuse among Vietvets, Hastings said that "It's not the general rule. Most are straight, good, clean and sensible." But there is, he acknowledge, a "higher percentage" with problems than there had been after other wars. "A lot of that has to do with the character of the individual," he said.

Many veterans have complained of job problems, indicating what amounts to the presence of outright negative discrimination. Hastings said he's not sure about that, but he pointed out that, nationwide, the young vets have a reputation and image of association with drugs. "There's no question that they were unfairly treated by the news media; TV presented them as drug addicts.

"I've metioned that to employers. And they reply that if a veteran comes in with cut hair and is clean, there's no problem. But if he's sloppy, unshaven, they may have other thoughts."

Hastings said there are about a dozen or so Vietnam veterans undergoing counselling for psychological problems. These work through the county mental health department. But he believes that for every one that has had to seek help, there must be two hundred who don't need help."

The Mono county veterans' experience is similar, except that fewer, if any, have sought help. Mono veterans service officer Art Webb said Mono is home to 250-350 Vietnam veterans,

*Welcome to the Normandy Inn...
an experience in fine dining*

Coq au Vin avec Champignon

Half a chicken, roasted in its own mushroom and wine sauce...
served with au gratin potatoes

Canard a l'Orange

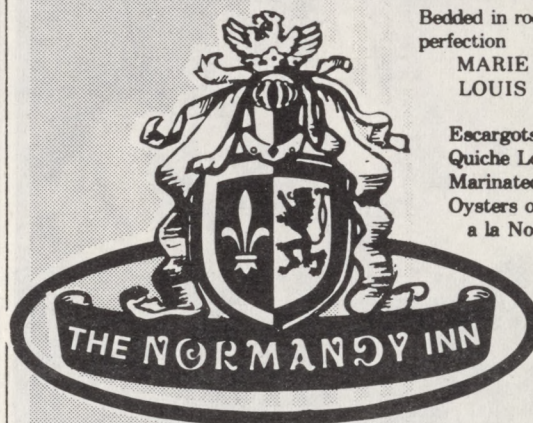
Half roast duckling, orange sauce glazed, choux rouge au vin, prune-apple-raisin garni... Served with rice a la Normandy

Prime Rib

Bedded in rock salt and roasted to perfection

MARIE ANTOINETTE CUT
LOUIS XIV CUT

Escargots a la Bourgignonne
Quiche Lorraine
Marinated Herring
Oysters on the Halfshell
a la Normandy



Cocktails 5pm
Dinner from 5:30
Open 7 days

Crowley Lake Dr.

Just off US 395,
at Long Valley Turnoff
Two miles south of
Mammoth Lakes Airport
Telephone: (714) 935-4406



flowers & plants. naturally.

**delivered
to your
door...or
anywhere!**



TELEFLORIST
The finest flowers sent anywhere.

the
**mountain
greenery**

192a east pine  bishop  873-3435



MM-M-M-M....GREAT !



**OLD FASHIONED
RIBS, CHICKEN, BEEF**

FOR A PLATE OR
A PLANELOAD....



187
South
Main

872-5535

Catering service

but that few have asked for any assistance.

Many could not believe that someone really wanted to kill them

Counselling? Well, there's not too much of that anymore. Inyo's county psychiatrist is Dr. Leo Pisculli, himself a veteran of the Vietnam war from 1964-67. While stationed at Subic Bay in the Phillippines he counselled "hundreds of Vietnam soldiers."

"They were experiencing a lot of disbelief about being shot at, about someone actually trying to kill them. There wasn't much of a drug problem then, that came later in the war. But there was alcoholism, and there was a hysteria that sometimes caused blindness or paralysis.

"The Marines that came into Vietnam later in the war were jumpy because they never knew who their enemies were. People they knew and dealt with during the day could become Vietcong at night. I have talked to Marines who were involved in what they called 'search and destroy' missions. They would go into a village and wipe out everything - men, women, children, chickens, animals...everything. It was hard for these people to enter back into society..."

Shades of My Lai! Americans who for decades upon decades have looked on their soldiers as conquering heroes, if not avenging angels, cannot accept a war in which the realities seemed to require the slaughter of women and children. But in fact did not the bombers over Cologne and Berlin and Tokyo accomplish the same thing? And then of course, how about Hiroshima? Is there in fact something more noble about killing women and children from the impersonal heights of an airplane at several thousand feet? There are those who think that the ground slaughter, like it or not, was not only necessary (Kids threw hand grenades in Vietnam), but perhaps even more honest, in that the soldier accepted the decision and dealt with it personally.

In the years since the war, more and more people are beginning a re-examination of it and of their attitudes toward it. The North Vietnam and Vietcong sympathizers have lately been forced into the embarrassing position of having to admit (particularly since Cambodia's



1979 EXCEL Trailers For Sale at Exceptionally Low Prices. Two to Choose From.

We are closing these models out to make way for the 1980's!

RV CENTER
Eastern Sierra Motors
910 N. Main St. Bishop 873-4291

RV 6-11c

holocaust), that maybe the United States presence there was not only needed, but perhaps honorable. The movies are beginning to look seriously into the condition of the veterans, and into the real war. Veterans nowadays are more listened to, more respected it would appear. Maybe, after all, the North Vietnamese had in fact lied just a little bit; and maybe we should have known it then.

And, lo and behold, patriotism is 'in' again. College students are actually waving the flag, and many young people, including the women, mind you, say they are ready to go "if we have to."

Iran touched it off. Afghanistan confirmed it. Soldiers of any past, present or future, American war, may after all be valuable people. Or so many people are recently concluding.

The public officials - especially the public officials - are having to look closely at the situation. One of these, Inyo's State Senator Walter Stiern, had a word to say: "There are a lot of people still saying 'I don't want to lay down my life for Exxon.' Starting up a draft is questionable, but registration - just to know where people are - might be reasonable." As for Vietnam veterans, Stiern said that there has been a lot more discussion about special programs for Vietnam veterans, but that "nothing has been done."

But "discussion" itself is an indicator of a new attitude, a new conscience. And one wonders perhaps that if Veteran Porter got off the plane today, returning from a war in the Middle East (as has been seriously suggested by the president), whether the girl's welcome would have been the same?

Next time, if there must be a next time, which will it be: spitting, or cheering?

Or just an emptiness everywhere?



CLIP
and
MAIL
TODAY

The NEWS- Inyo and Mono LETTER

P. O. Box 275 • 531 • Independence, CA 93526 • 878-2381

Order a subscription for a friend—or yourself.

☐ 50 issues ☐ 25 issues ☐ 12 issues
\$30 \$15 \$8

☐ Enter my own subscription ☐ Extend my subscription

MY NAME

PLEASE PRINT

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

☐ Please send gift subscription

TO:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

■ For even
faster serv-
ice call
878-2381

☐ Payment
enclosed
☐ Bill me

WHOLESALE 25-75% OFF! PRICES

Quality
clothes!

All
immedi-
ate
stock
must go!

Some new
merchan-
dise in!

YOU KNOW WHERE IN BISHOP

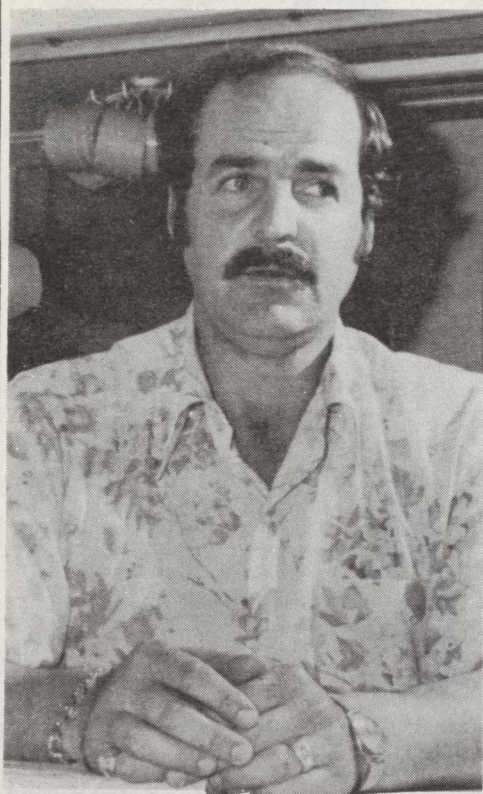
Candleberry Co.

A Clothing Store.. And More
785 N. Main, Suite E Bishop
Cottonwood Plaza



Photos... John Heston, Benett Kessler

Strikers picket the Bishop Schat's Bakery plant
From a mom-and-pop operation into the competitive L.A. market, Schat's had caught the union's attention



Union man Davis

"We've only got three hundred and fifty million dollars left..."

NEW BRIEFS Continued

the strike made its way around the two counties, there was a noticeable silence from much of the news media. To find out what was happening, News-Let-

ter's Benett Kessler went to the strike scene and she interviewed the people involved in the conflict.

First, she talked to Pete Peters, a union business agent; the interview follows in part:

Kessler: What's going on? There hasn't been a lot of news coverage on this issue?

Peters: Yes, we know. A reporter from your local paper came out to the picket line. He wanted to take some pictures. He talked to us. Then Dan Schat came running out, took the fellow aside, then the reporter left in his car.

K: How did all this get started?

P: About five years ago...I had relatives in Lone Pine, and they told me about Schat's Bakery and how the workers there wanted to join a union. I drove up and talked to the night shift. They said they'd like to join; that they were unhappy with their conditions, and they said there was bias, partially on a nationality basis. So we decided to have an election. We held the election, but then the Schats told everyone that they couldn't afford a union and would rather close the bakery. So we lost the election. After one year, some of the workers came down to L.A. and asked for another election. But the second one was out, too; there was a sudden mysterious raid by the immigration authorities. The bakery filed ten charges against

the union but in eight months all the charges were thrown out. Then the National Labor Relations Board certified us as the legal representatives for Schat's workers. The negotiations started a couple of months ago. They wanted to give wage increases by means of merit increases. That way the supervisors would have the right to give a raise to whomever they want. But this is against union practice; we want the same pay for the same work, no favoritism.

We don't want a closed shop. He can hire whoever he wants. They work thirty days and then they come under the union contract. We also offered to 'red circle' those who are working there now, but who don't want to join the union."

K: Red circle?

P: ...Long-time employees who could continue to work without union membership...

K: Specifically, what else does the union want?

P: Benefits. Health and welfare for now. But I can't say all of it, it's still in negotiations and the longer the strike lasts, our position might change.

K: How many joined the picket line?

P: After their shift was over, about thirty.

K: Were they mostly Mexicans?

P: No. Mexican-Americans, Mexicans and whites. They picket in shifts, from two in the

morning until twelve-thirty p.m. We're going to continue picketing until we win.

K: What about picketers on the Schat's trucks at Los Angeles?

P: We just started that this morning. And we took our case to the AFL-CIO, the food and drug council and the Teamsters. All three said we have a good case and they will back us up.

On the picket line, a union business agent, John Davis, said that 33 employees had joined the strike. Davis echoes Peters' determined statements and he too says the strike may be drawn out. Can the union, and can the striking employees, carry on a lengthy strike? Inviting Reporter Kessler into the union's mobile office parked nearby the plant, Davis produced a stack of checks, each in the amount of \$80. These will go to strikers. "And next week, they'll be getting a hundred and fifty dollars a week, since the international union will kick in five dollars a day on a seven-day strike basis."

Will that be enough, and how long will it last, he was asked?

"Well, we're down to our last three-hundred and fifty million dollars," said Davis, "and we'll spend it right here if we have to."

Davis was asked about wages paid by Schat's Bakery compared to union scale. "Most of his workers get about three-thirty-five an hour, and one woman who has worked there ten years said she's still only getting five-fifty."

"His products sell at the same price as other manufacturers who pay seven or eight dollars an hour. And what has made some of the workers unhappy and discouraged is the Schats' personal expenditures: He bought three airplanes, two Mercedes cars, a new home, and then paid ten thousand dollars for a house for his horses. But for the workers, it might be a nickel or a dime every now and then."

There was little doubt in anyone's mind about Schat's success and his burgeoning enterprise. Dan Schat said his bakery delivers (by way of a fleet of trucks) some 100,000 units (loaves) each week to the southland market. The bakery now has under construction still another, larger outlet now nearing completion on Bishop's Main Street. And local sales, as always, remain steady and growing.

Dan Schat, approached by newsmen, said he'd frankly rather "ignore" the strike, or any publicity about it. But he spoke freely to dispute the union claims. "The issue is not wages," he said, and he warned that if the Schats' Los Angeles market is hurt by the strike he and his brother, Erick Schat, "will close down the Mandich Lane facility and concentrate on the new place on Main Street." He mentioned plans for a restaurant there. "We feel strongly about this." Asked if he thinks his workers are fairly treated he said "more than so," and said that the plant has a health plan, a dental plan, sick leave arrangements, holidays, "and birthdays off."



Plant Manager Dan Schat

"If they shut out the L.A. market, I'll shut the doors."

Kessler: Well, how is the strike going?

Schat: It's fine.

K: What is the point of the disagreement?

S: I don't want a closed shop. I don't mind having a union...but it's a bunch of nonsense.

K: Where's the union from, and who's here?

S: It's an L.A. union. Pete Peters came here with his honchos, four union bosses. I've been in negotiations with them for five months. I don't want a closed shop. We should have freedom of choice, that principle will be dear to me 'til I die. I would mind if the union made me fire somebody because they didn't want to join the union. I think that the wage issue is a tactical issue. He can not tell the employees that he's on strike only for the

union. So he won't sign the wage agreement unless he gets the union in.

K: And you've replaced the workers that went on strike?

S: All of them have been replaced. And the ones replacing them have permanent jobs.

K: What about your L.A. market?

S: They have pickets around the trucks in L.A. It's called a "secondary boycott."

K: What do you plan to do?

S: It's their move. I'm not obligated to do anything.

K: Why do you think the union is moving in?

S: Our expansion attracted them.

K: How much business do you do in the L.A. area?

S: We ship a hundred thousand loaves a week. About sixty thousand dollars' worth. If they back me against the wall on this, if they shut out the L.A. market, I'll shut the doors. We're committed on this.

Told of Schat's seemingly total "commitment", Peters replied jovially: "Well, I'm from Holland, too. My family was in the underground there during the war. I want freedom, too, but freedom for everybody, not just the bosses."

So far, the "Los Angeles market" seems to be holding. Davis said one of the company trucks had returned here without delivering a load of bread to a Von's Market in Los Angeles. "That's not true," said Schat. "All the trucks are being unloaded."

It was beginning to look like a long battle ahead. ■

Fotopage



On their mail route the Keeney's celebrate a 50th anniversary. See Notes from B.K.

Notes from B.K.



Benett
Kessler

WE CALLED UP WANTING TO TALK TO THE BIG BOSS, but what we got was another PR man. DWP's Louie Winnard just wasn't available for such as we, as usual, and we were looking for some downtown L.A. comment on the bombing of the old DWP Building here in Independence. What we got, like it or not, was DWP's Steve Hinderer (He's the feller that took a very, very sudden negative interest in our Channel 7 news report on who got fired for what reason from what radio station in the valley). "We certainly deplore the incident," says Steve. Well, we kind of figured the DWP wasn't exactly ecstatic about molotov cocktails crashing in on its sacred confines, but we were really looking for something more substantive, like, for instance, is this an indication of the beginning of a hot war? "No," Steve assured us, "We hope this is an isolated incident."

Well, from what we have been able to get, it was not an isolated incident. When asked if DWP officials had asked him to withhold information on vandalism incidents, Sheriff Floyd Barton said, "No". He did say that such incidents would not necessarily be made public unless a complaint were filed. Barton said that he did have "a conversation with Jim" Wickser about reporting vandalism on city property. But we know of our own knowledge of several incidents. We also know that the media won't be getting very much information from DWP officials, and certainly not from mere PR types. For instance, we have a copy of the minutes of a DWP staff meeting at Bishop in which is contained a direct quote from DWP Owens Valley engineer Jim Wickser. At that meeting Wickser told his people that incidents of vandalism should be reported to the sheriff's office but "not discussed on the radio at all." Heaven forbid, Jim, would I, the shy and delicate lady of Inyo radio news, report on a thing like that? Here is a partial list of vandalism so far - and mind you, it's only a sampling: DWP car and truck windows smashed, bags of concrete stolen from a DWP warehouse (and other bags of concrete dumped into at least one water meter), rifle and pistol shots into DWP's isolated pumps - and now, Godhelpus, molotov cocktails whizzing through the air.

DWP is of course operating on the 1950's and 60's idea that the media is always unfair, that the people (either here or in LA) have no right to know what's happening, and that if it's not reported (Shades of Tricky Dick Nixon) maybe it'll go away. It is the view of most professional newspeople that if an organization, a conglomerate, or a public agency or official can't speak with honest candor, then clearly it has something - maybe a lot - to hide. It is also obvious that the Department of Water and Power, and even some local public officials, have put their heads in the sand and have hoped that things will somehow work out fine if it's covered up. What we call the cat's sandbox theory. In following that line, even further tensions have been created, and many officials have clearly underestimated the re-

active tendencies, and destructive abilities, of the public. In Inyo County people are terribly frustrated, terribly angry. It is the view of many that the minute a strong leader turns up - and a few of these seem to be evolving - then DWP may have a lot more on its hands than a couple of lawsuits. "Deploring" incidents won't solve the problems. Why, for instance, were the press and television, "absolutely" forbidden to take pictures of the fire bombing? (You'll see ours in the bombing story reported elsewhere in these pages.)

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPARTMENT: The couple you see over on the opposite page have apparently weathered all the big storms - for 50 years. They are Ben and Millie Keeney who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month. A lot of people around Independence and north to Aberdeen know them as "the mail people", they have delivered Independence's Star Route for 21 years. And in that time they've made a lot of friends, as evidenced by what they found one morning when they were delivering the mail: Boxes along the way were decorated with ribbon and wedding bells and greetings and congratulations. A nice way to say thanks from appreciative boxholders. The Keeney's began their Star Route service back in 1959. Says Ben: "We had been married for 30 years then...We were just kids."

YES, that was Mono County Supervisor Gene Hanson that you've seen at the Bishop Airport. Hanson is a certified "flight designator." We're not sure what that is, but he flies with pilots who are working on their licenses.

SOLAR HEATED, BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED and (you can count on this) well-constructed. That's the new house going up on Lone Pine's west side (Portal Road area) for Al and Dorothy Bonnefin. She's the real estate lady (Century 21), he's the construction man (Inyo Building). It's a modern, roomy place with lots of picture-window views of the mountains. Design credit goes to Dick Irwin and Bob Slater. Completion date and housewarming: undetermined as yet.

SOURCES UP NORTH tell us that a few Mono County construction firms are miffed (but only quietly mumbling or complaining) about what amounts to pay-offs for building permits. Not just a straight cash pay-off, understand, but one that goes something like this: "If you want to get a building permit then you'll have to do a little extra paying here or there, or extend this or that road," etc. That way, the powers that be can demand a few favors without getting scored for a "pay-off." We'll ask Our Man in Mono - Wally - to look into this. But he'll find tough

going in trying to get the builders to complain openly about it; they fear that if they talk, they may not get any permits at all - or so says our own source.

WELCOME TO THE INYO-MONO media family: Joshua Crabtree who recently joined the staff of the county's weekly newspapers published by Chalfant Press. We're told that Publisher Todd Watkins may assign Josh, a good combination reporter-photographer, to some stories in Southern Inyo where Chalfant coverage has been less than complete lately.

SPEAKING OF COVERAGE, don't look for much DWP news to be aired in any news that might come over Big Pine's Channel 3 TV cable. The cable system and equipment is located (like damn near everything else) on a DWP lease, and the word is out that Cable Owner Roy Mayhugh won't be getting into any controversies with DWP.

DWP SWINGS ITS WEIGHT AROUND, alright. We're told (Nobody admits or denies it) that some BP school officials allowed the Concerned Citizens

Committee the use of some school chairs for a 3-C meeting to talk about the water issue; but that the school officials wanted to keep it quiet in order not to offend the L.A. powers. Why? Well, you see, the school playing field is a DWP lease, too. And DWP (Applause, please) also uses its own equipment to keep up the field.

STICK SHTICK: The young fellow pictured here-about with what looks like a two-by-four with runs in its hosiery is in fact playing, well, a "stick." It sounds something like the offspring of a guitar and a harp, with a concert grand grandfather, and the artist making those unusual and pleasant sounds is young Jim Lampi. Lampi created something of a sensation at a local bistro one recent evening after his brother - Mammoth Lawyer Bill Lampi - "called in about five friends to hear him play." About 30 actually arrived at the Normandy Inn north of Bishop (and just south of Mammoth), and the evening turned into nothing less than a media event. Television cameras whirled under the bright floodlights to film Lampi and his music-



Jim Lampi
and his
"stick"

"like a
two-by-four
with runs..."

San Diego's CBS TV covers a stick schtick in Mono Mammoth Lawyer Bill Lampi "called only about five friends" to hear his brother play at Mono's Normandy Inn.

al friends as they held forth for local fans. Lampi's "stick" was a hit, to say the least. Host and hostess to the party were Normandy Inn owners Suzanne and John Olson (add to our VPP list). Talk about good PR! They know how to deal with the media, as it turned out. During Lampi's show, a couple of fast-breaking news stories came in and so we tied up the Normandy telephone for two hours getting a radio newscast together. Side-note: The phone's in the kitchen, so I leaned, sat, stood and paced up and down the kitchen all that time, and for whatever it's worth, the Normandy kitchen has got to be the most complete, clean, sparkling culinary center I've seen in ages.

SO, OKAY, I hand out a free plug every now and then. Escargots, anyone?

WE CAN'T FIND EVEN ONE COUNTY OFFICIAL nervy enough to make a commitment on the Inyo water users strike. They're not saying whether they're going to pay the outrageous bills or not. But one high official did go so far as to say that if the people don't go on strike now and refuse to pay the metered rate, that their stand won't be "consistent," and that the movement against the meters (legally and otherwise) would be "intellectually defective." And a few people are in fact selling out: Discovering that their bills are in fact lower than the flat rate, they're paying the billed amount - to save two bucks or three. When summer comes, they'll be stuck, and they'll deserve it.

WE'VE BEEN ASKED OUR VIEWS on paying the metered rate water bills. Well, okay, here's mine: Pay the flat rate only, even if your bill (for now) is a little less than the flat rate. Later on, when DWP wants to negotiate intelligently and honestly, we'll support up to a 20% increase over the flat rate.

DON'T KID YOURSELVES; Those meters, or a lot of them, are grossly inaccurate. We've seen one that can be increased merely by tapping on it - or by the vibration of a passing car.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: From Big Pine's Mike Rossi

who probably is the one who has best articulated the real problem with Inyo's lack of organization in its fight with DWP. He had attended a water meeting and had this comment about it: "At least three people got up and said the same thing - and then they argued about it!" Yep, that's our trouble alright.

PERSONAL VENDETTA MAYBE? Late in the month, the Inyo board voted a measure to hire a 'county counsel,' this over the protest of the district attorney, L.H. "Buck" Gibbons. The decision may be a throwback to last summer when Gibbons (and practically every other intelligent legal mind in the county) advised against an administration sellout to DWP on the "agreement" issue. Gibbons has proven to be an effective hard-liner in DWP dealings. It is possible, even probable, that a county counsel, one without his own political base, would be more "manageable" and under the heel of the board. Replacement of Gibbons in the water fight would be bad news, and his supporters should rally round - quick before we

But may the news in your day be good news every day.....

- Sincerely,

BK

Telling it like it is....

Hear all the important area news each day with Bennett Kessler and Sandy Harrison at 7:05, 8:05, 12:05 and 5:05. KIOQ-FM 100.

ECONOMY NOW!



Stop in and see Steve and these three winners - Chevettes and a Citation. Steve's the new owner at Miller Chevrolet.

CAPRICE CLASSIC · IMPALA · MONTE CARLO · MALIBU · CAMARO ·

NOVA · MONZA · CHEVETTE · CORVETTE · WAGONS · R.V.'S

MILLER CHEVROLET

1935 MAIN STREET
Telephone 876-5551

Before you buy, check our deals

LONE PINE

WATCH OUT FOR 'CODE' WORDS

code name, a conventional word or name assigned to a secret agent, project, or assignment to avoid identification or detection by enemy intelligence:

code (kōd), *n., v., coded, coding*. — *n.* 1a a system of words, letters, figures, or other symbols, used to keep a message short or secret; system of secret writing: **b** a system of signals for sending messages,

Bureaucrats and politicians - and lots of just plain folks - have learned that they can make a bad situation look better, or a very acceptable situation look awful, by calling it something other than what it really is. These people acquired entire new vocabularies using words that intentionally distort or lie, or, worse yet, words that say nothing at all when something needs to be said; vocabularies in short that are self-serving, vocabularies full of "code" words. Euphemisms.

Now in Inyo County a new "code" word has appeared. It is

"LIMITED GROWTH"

In two surveys taken here the population expressed a majority view clearly favoring "limited growth." The surveys indicated the presence of a strong political base holding that view. But now another group, a very small minority that favors not "limited growth," but NO-growth, wants to make an appeal to that majority's votes, and so the NO-growth people have attempted to conceal their real intentions by telling people that they too support "limited growth."

But their actions reveal their real meaning to the term "limited growth." For instance, they go before boards and planning hearings and, so far, they have blocked every project to provide much-needed low-cost housing. Lately, the NO-growth types, still parading behind a banner of "limited growth," have even managed to stack some of those boards with their own super-conservative brand of "planners." Why do they do this? Because they already have substantial homes and (for now) secure jobs; now that they are safely "in," they want to close the gate on everybody else. They couldn't care less about older people, people on fixed incomes, and younger people with families - the working people.

Your own job, your own future home, seems now to be in their hands. Any kind of economic growth, including jobs and housing, is no longer just "limited," it is blocked. All this in the name - another use of "code" words - of "conserving the environment." Ask yourself this: When YOUR house or apartment was built, did it REALLY damage the "environment," or the "quality of life"?

The solution: The next time you're asked to sign a "limited growth" petition, or the next time you talk to a public official, or get stopped by one of these "limited growth" people, let them know that you are aware of their real intentions, that you know something about "code" words that they use to confuse you, and that you know something about plain English.

"Limited growth" in their terms means NO-growth. It is dangerous, placing all growth, all construction, all progress and county independence into a state of stagnation. It also makes any growth whatever the exclusive right of an elite and favored few. Don't be fooled: Watch out for "code" words.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

R. RT-1 NO. BARLOW LANE

873-7141



HUBBARD
ENTERPRISES
INCORPORATED

eastern sierra
news service

P. O. Box 275 • 531
(714) 878-2582 • 878-2381
Independence, CA 93526

John Lee
Box 146
Independence, CA 93526 ✓

US POSTAGE PAID
BULK RATE
Independence, Cal.
Permit #6
93526

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED